

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344089
Inspection date	04 May 2007
Inspector	Barbara Ann Bush

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged three years and one year in the town of Chelmsford, Essex near to local amenities. The whole premises is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children, who attend on a part time basis. The childminder supports children who have English as an additional language. There were no children present during the inspection.

The childminder walks to local schools and playgroups to take and collect children. She visits the library and park with the minded children. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an understanding of how to promote children's good health. Documentation is in place detailing children's needs and medical history. She has written permission from parents to seek emergency treatment or advice for a minded child and has completed first aid training. She feels confident about responding to a child's needs if an emergency should arise.

The childminder states that children are learning basic hygiene routines such as hand washing after messy play and toileting. The nappy changing arrangements are hygienic. Children are able to rest or sleep in a bedroom; the childminder regularly checks to see if they are safe. The childminder describes providing opportunities for physical play in the garden, on walks and sometimes at the park.

From discussion the childminder demonstrates an understanding of healthy eating, including the need to have drinking water available at all times. At present the parents provide for the children's nutritional needs. Children's allergies and food preferences are on file.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder uses the whole premises for childcare. She states that children play primarily downstairs and have access to a range of toys in the lounge. The childminder keeps the home clean and maintained to a good standard.

There is a range of resources available to meet the developmental needs of the minded children. Toys are accessible and children can make choices from the range of equipment on offer. Resources are clean and kept in satisfactory condition.

The childminder demonstrates an understanding of the need to keep the premises safe and secure. She has taken action to minimise the hazards within the home and completes a risk assessment. There were no hazards identified at the inspection visit. She describes how she ensures children are safe when transporting them outside of the home; children are securely strapped into any equipment that is used. She also teaches children not to run around the home and to use resources safely.

The childminder has information regarding child protection issues and is confident of procedures. Her clear understanding of child protection matters and actions to be taken, adequately safeguards children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder talks about how the children enjoy playing together. She describes how she ensures that the resources are available for the children's enjoyment. The childminder speaks of how the children like each other's company and are firm friends.

The childminder has a range of toys suitable for the children's needs and this range is increased as the children grow. She describes how the children are able to share, cooperate and take turns. The childminder said that she intends to expand the range of resources and experiences

for the children as they develop, for example, cooking, painting and more trips outside of the home.

The childminder speaks knowledgeably about the children's likes and dislikes and how she provides a varied session of activities to maintain interest. Children are encouraged to explore and investigate as they play. The childminder has completed the basic training for children aged from birth to three years and has some knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She is beginning to implement the framework to improve outcomes for younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates an understanding of how children should be treated with respect and as individuals. She states that discriminatory remarks would be challenged and parents informed if necessary. The childminder said that she has resources that reflect diversity in the community and that additional toys are added whenever possible.

The childminder states that she has experience caring for children who require additional support. Should the situation arise with childminding, she states she would liaise closely with parents and any other agencies that may be involved with the child's care.

The childminder understands the importance of having a coordinated approach to behaviour management. She speaks about having discussed methods with parents and explains that she has firm strategies in place when setting boundaries for the children. The childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of age-appropriate ways to deal with unwanted behaviour.

From discussion, it is evident that the childminder has established a good working relationship with parents and has regular talks regarding the children's well-being. Written policies and procedures are in place for parents to read.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has completed the initial preparation training and a first aid course. She is open to further training if it fits in with family commitments. The childminder said that she enjoys her work and likes to be with the children.

The childminder states that she maintains ratios at all times which allows her time to give individual attention to the children. She describes how she organises the day around the children's needs, having free play sessions and then other times where she helps and assists.

Documentation is in order and kept confidential. She has added a helpful range of policies and procedures to her portfolio for parents to read. However, the daily register does not accurately reflect the times of arrival and departure of the minded children. It is important to be able to pinpoint the location of children from day to day with certainty. The range of information and knowledge gained by the childminder assists her to protect the well-being and safety of the children.

Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that the daily register accurately records the times of arrival and departure of each child
- expand the resources and play activities to allow children to build on their curiosity as learners, for example, cooking, painting and trips outside of the home, in line with their developmental needs.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk