

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY363698
Inspection date	18 April 2008
Inspector	Samantha Smith
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 2007. She lives with one child aged 2 years in Purfleet, Essex. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and there is currently one child attending on a part-time basis, three days a week. The family have a cat as a pet. 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's home is clean and well-maintained. Children are encouraged to follow basic hygiene routines such as washing hands at appropriate times throughout the day. Aids such as steps and potties support young children's growing independence as they learn to assist their own personal needs. The childminder's own hygiene practices contribute towards promoting children's good health. She washes her hands before preparing meals, making bottles and when changing children's nappies.

Children are further protected from the spread of infection and their good health is promoted through the sickness policy in place. This includes procedures for administering medication, exclusion periods for children that are infectious and in the event of a child becoming unwell whilst in her care. The childminder has a sound knowledge of first aid and an up to date certificate is maintained. Appropriate procedures are in place in the event of an accident or a child needing minor medical attention and the relevant documentation is in place to support this, ensuring children health and well-being is sufficiently supported.

Although currently not caring for older children, the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of providing a nutritious and balanced diet. Children's dietary requirements will be taken into account through discussion with the parents and provisions will be made accordingly. Good provision is in place for babies, and the childminder is currently working with parents on food intake, and weaning. She ensures that she follows parent's instructions and she keeps parents well-informed of their baby's eating patterns. Drinks are provided regularly throughout the day.

Regular opportunities for children to engage in physical activities are provided through visits to various playgroups where children take part in activities that promote their finer motor skills through gluing and sticking activities. Other opportunities include visits to the park, musical movement sessions and garden activities. Babies rest and sleep according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The home is warm and welcoming and resources are stored appropriately, creating a happy, stimulating and safe environment for children to play. Their independence is encouraged through a range of safe and developmentally appropriate resources.

Children are safe in the childminder's home because positive steps have been taken to identify and reduce possible hazards. Some of these include electrical socket covers, safety gates at the top and bottom of the stairs and radiator covers. Fire safety measures are in place through the use of smoke alarms that are tested regularly and records of these are kept. Parents are informed of the emergency evacuation plan through the written policy shared with them and they sign their acknowledgement of this. However, this has yet to be practised and the fire blanket has yet to be mounted appropriately according to fire instructions. Consequently children are not fully protected in the event of a fire in the home.

Children are safe on outings because appropriate precautions are taken with regards to their safe transport. Babies are safely strapped into a buggy, and older children are made aware of road safety. Written permission has been obtained from parents to take children on trips out of the home and on public transport.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She is aware of the signs and symptoms and she knows who to report her concerns to. She is confident of her role in the protection of children and a written policy shared with parents informs them of her role.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and well-settled in the childminder's home. They have established warm and positive relationships with the childminder and her family. They play in a happy and stimulating environment, where there are a range of activities and experiences available to develop their confidence and self-esteem.

There is a sufficient range of toys and resources, which includes role play equipment, books, puzzles, cars, dolls, and construction and interactive toys. The childminder has a particular skill in art and craft and she provides a good range of creative materials that promote imaginative, exploratory and sensory experiences through various different materials, such as home-made sensory touch pads. There are opportunities for children to develop early social skills through planned visits to playgroups and meeting with other childminder's and their children.

Much of the childminder's time is spent on the children's level, interacting with them and responding to their needs effectively. The childminder has sound knowledge of the needs of babies and young children. Consequently, she plans and provides opportunities and experiences to support their play and learning and the childminder supports them well as she joins in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to promoting equal opportunities with regard to all children having equal access to the toys and resources regardless of age, gender or ability. However, there are no resources to support this. No children attending have any learning difficulties and/or disabilities, although the childminder demonstrates a sound attitude to meeting children's individual needs and exchanging information regularly with parents.

The childminder has positive strategies in place to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their ages and stages of development. Young children are gaining a sound understanding of right from wrong through the clear and consistent boundaries in place and the childminder demonstrates appropriate procedures of how she intends to manage older children's behaviour.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure their child's needs are met. Sound partnerships have been established between them and information about the child is gathered from parents at the beginning of their placement and a regular exchange is maintained throughout. As a result, children benefit from the continuity of care provided. Policies and procedures are shared, and written agreements have been obtained from parents. The childminder has a clear understanding of current legislation with regards to handling complaints and a written policy is in place and shared with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, children's needs met. Children are cared for by a suitable person as the childminder has completed the required checks for registration, and the required courses for registration have been completed including an introduction to childminding and a first aid course.

The required documentation is in place and well-maintained and the register shows an accurate record of children's arrival and departure times. The childminder is currently devising a unique set of policies to share with parents, informing them of the service offered, demonstrating her commitment to supporting children's care and welfare.

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):

- take appropriate steps to promote safety within the setting, with regards to providing a fire blanket which conforms to BS EN safety standards and regularly practising the emergency evacuation procedures
- provide play materials that reflect diversity by showing positive images of gender, culture and varying 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