



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	123669
Inspection date	12 September 2006
Inspector	Lynn Clements
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 1986. She lives with her husband and grown up son. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. They live in a residential area of Bishop's Stortford.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five-years-old on a part time basis and one child over five-years-old before and school. She also cares for five children over eight-years of age. During the inspection one minded child were present. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and she attends the local toddler group.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the importance of hygiene through the satisfactory daily routines in place. Hand washing is encouraged at relevant times which prevents cross contamination. Health related documentation is in place and updated as required to meet children's changing needs. Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of first aid, as well as the informal systems in place to deal with any emergency situation should it arise.

Opportunities for children to learn about healthy eating are adequate. When they are out and about on shopping trips the childminder encourages them to think about foods which are good for them and those which are not so good. Children are beginning to recognise healthy options for themselves. For example they talk about water and apples being good for you. However, this is not appropriately supported in practice as children eat their treats first rather than their sandwiches and fruit. Children have beakers which are left at child height enabling them to help themselves easily when they are thirsty and the childminder is careful to monitor their fluid intake encouraging them to have more water. Parents share information about their child's individual dietary needs and provide their children's lunches and snacks enabling the childminder to spend more playing time with the children.

Children move freely around the childminder's home. They are able to rest or join in activities according to their individual needs and interests. They have satisfactory opportunities each day to engage in physical play both inside and outside. Children climb, run, jump and balance and they construct using a variety of building materials including large building blocks and role play resources; helping them to build on their existing motor skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The organisation of the play space along with checks of all child accessible areas ensures the environment remains safe for children. Toys and resources are regularly checked and cleaned so they remain in good condition for children to use. Children are able to make their own choices and move freely around the setting including playing indoors or outside. The provision of satisfactory child accessible storage enables children to extend their own play and learning and the childminder encourages them to tidy away afterwards to prevent tripping hazards.

Children are supervised at all times. The childminder takes positive steps to help children understand how to keep themselves safe. For example, she has developed fire escape routines and children practise road safety when out and about to keep themselves safe. The childminder is careful to check the identification of visitors and never lets children leave with adults she has not met and agreed with parents that it is safe to do so.

All the required procedures and documents are in place to ensure the childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare. She has an adequate understanding about her responsibility with regard the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect and has attended relevant child

protection training. However, her knowledge and understanding with regards to making referrals requires development to ensure children remain protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and secure in the childminder's home. They explore activities independently and the use of child accessible storage enables them to make their own choices. Children have adequate opportunities to investigate and develop their skills in all areas of learning. They concentrate as they fill boxes with wooden bricks. They use creative materials when drawing pictures. They select from a range of books and extend their language skills as they excitedly tell the childminder all about their morning spent at the nursery school. Regular trips to the mother and toddler group, park and the library increases children's confidence to socialise with others and learn about the world around them.

The childminder listens to children, giving them time to share their thoughts and ideas. The childminder uses positive praise and encouragement to develop their interest. Children try different activities and share ideas without fear of failure.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children form sound relationships with each other and the childminder. They learn to share and take turns. Discussions with parents prior to placement provides the childminder with relevant background information about each child which is used adequately to help them settle. Positive resources provide opportunities for children to explore diversity. The childminder ensures that there is no bias in her practice in relation to gender race or disability.

Parents are consulted about any special services that may be required. The childminder is consistent in her approach with regards to behaviour management and ensures that age appropriate discussions help to support children. Positive praise and encouragement supports children's confidence and raises their self-esteem. Children behave well and understand what is expected of them.

Parents have opportunities to share in their children's achievement through verbal discussions. Shared information at hand-over times provides opportunities for the parents to learn about their child's achievements and experiences. However, the childminder does not have the current complaints procedure in place. This process ensures that parents and the childminder can quickly resolve any issues that affect the care of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the childminding promotes positive outcomes for children. Children benefit from the childminder's appropriate knowledge and understanding of child development. There

is enough space for them to play indoors and out; toys and equipment are organised adequately and stored at child height so that they can learn to make their own choices.

All records are securely stored and confidentiality is respected. All necessary documentation required by regulation is in place. Overall, the needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved outcomes for children. She has obtained written permission from parents enabling her to seek emergency medical advice or treatment to ensure children are cared for appropriately in an emergency. Children now take an active role during meal times helping to gain independence and develop their skills and manners. Times of arrival and departure are now recorded in the daily registers to ensure children are officially accounted for at all times to keep them safe.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- increase opportunities for children to make healthy choices at snack and meal times
- increase knowledge and understanding about making child protection concern referrals and awareness of the government booklet 'What to do if Your Worried a Child is Being Abused'
- devise a system for recording any written or electronic complaints received by parents and ensure these are responded to within 28 days.

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