



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY337817
Inspection date	07 March 2007
Inspector	Suzanne Joyce Stedman
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 good. 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 partner and daughter aged 14 in Southend on Sea, Essex. The whole 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding three children part time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog, cat and keep fish.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are protected effectively from cross-infection and their good health is promoted well because the childminder implements good hygiene practices. The home is clean and well maintained. Most of the required documentation to promote the children's good health is in place. However, the childminder does not have written parental consent to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment or written permission from parents before administering medication to children. This has the potential to hinder the childminder from acting promptly in an emergency.

Children benefit from healthy snacks provided by the childminder. The childminder uses her knowledge of healthy eating to ensure that children eat well. Drinks are made available throughout the day. The childminder ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are met.

Children have good opportunities to take part in physical activity and develop their skills because the childminder plans a good range of activities and play opportunities. For example, going for visits to the local park where they experience a range of large equipment. Children benefit from fresh air each day which stimulates their minds and bodies.

Children are learning about the importance of a healthy lifestyle as they wash their hands to keep them clean and learn that physical activity is fun. This promotes a positive attitude and encourages them to adopt this lifestyle for their future good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and comfortable home which promotes their sense of security. Children have access to the garden where they can play freely and safely. Children's all round development is promoted well because the childminder has a wide range of good play materials, however resources are limited regarding disabilities. Equipment and play resources are checked regularly to ensure they remain safe for children to use.

Children play in a home which is regularly checked by the childminder for safety. She demonstrates her understanding of safety issues in her written safety policy and her emergency evacuation plan. The childminder has smoke alarms located on the ground and first floor to give an early alert to any fire enabling her to evacuate the children quickly.

Children are effectively learning about keeping themselves safe through everyday routines. This is because the childminder reinforces safety measures with the children. For example, she explains to the children that they need to clear away some toys before getting out more so they do not trip on them. Children learn about road safety through first hand experiences when out walking with the childminder.

Children are protected because the childminder has a very good understanding of her role in safeguarding children. The childminder is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and the appropriate procedures to follow if she has any concerns. She has a written safeguarding children policy which she shares with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a wide range of activities and experiences in and out of the childminder's home. Their confidence and self-esteem is well promoted through the good interaction between them and their childminder and they have lots of fun playing together. This promotes a positive attitude to their future learning.

Children's language is very well promoted through purposeful conversation with childminder and good activities which promote their learning in this area. The childminder asks lots of open-ended questions encouraging children to think and reason. Children enjoy a good range of books which are readily available for them. The children are interactive joining in looking for the crab, whale and star in the story and sit intently as they snuggle into the childminder and laugh along with the funny bits. Children become very involved in icing and decorating their biscuits enjoying eating them before they had finished the decorating.

The children's early mathematical skills are developed well as the childminder talks and plays with them. For example they compare size and number as they joined in the story and help put away the fishing game. The children enjoy using the play tunnel rolling, clambering through and playing hide and seek with each other.

Children have good access to toys and equipment which are well organised and displayed ready for when they arrive. This effectively promotes the children's independence skills and allows them to develop their own games and ideas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder liaises well with parents to ensure that children's records contain information which enables appropriate and consistent care to be given. All children are treated with equal concern and respect and the childminder ensures that all children have equal access to the activities and facilities available. Children's understanding of our similarities and differences is fostered when they share stories from around the world.

Children develop good relationships with the childminder who is warm and welcoming which promotes their sense of belonging. Children's behaviour is good and their self-esteem is promoted very well as they are thanked for helping to tidy away and for sharing and taking turns. Children are provided with consistent boundaries to help them feel secure. Children begin to learn the difference between right and wrong and the consequences of their and others' actions as they talk with the childminder.

Parents are well informed about the childminder's routines and child care practices. For example, she has produced an informative childminder profile folder which outlines her policies and procedures and parents are provided with daily sheets, highlighting, nappy changes, food, drink, activities and outings. Parents have good opportunities to exchange information about their child on a daily basis because the childminder makes time to talk with them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected from non-vetted persons because the childminder ensures that all persons in the household are vetted and that non-vetted persons do not have unsupervised access to children. Children's needs are met effectively because the childminder ensures that the required adult to child ratios are adhered to and that the training and qualifications requirements are met. All these measures contribute to the children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and their ability to take an active part in the home in which they are being cared for. Children's needs are also met effectively because the childminder organises space and resources well to promote the children's welfare and learning.

The childminder maintains most of the required records and policies and procedures for the efficient and safe management of the childminding service. The childminder ensures that all documentation about individual children is shared with their parents and carers.

Overall, children's needs are met.

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 good. 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):

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- provide a suitable range of resources to meet the developmental needs of children with relation to disabilities.

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