



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284984
Inspection date	01 June 2005
Inspector	Carol Ann Jeffrey

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 has been registered since June 2004. She lives with her husband and their two children aged three years and eight years. The family live in a semi-detached house in West Wickham, on the borders with Coney Hall. Public Transport, parks, shops, schools and pre-school resources are all within easy walking distance.

All of the property is included in the registration. The areas mainly used by the minded children include the kitchen/diner and lounge. There is a downstairs toilet and wash hand basin, and sleep/rest facilities are provided in the main bedroom. Older

mindful children are able to play upstairs in the children's bedrooms. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The family has two guinea pigs which are kept in the garden.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to provide care for a maximum of four children at any time, and is currently caring for two children under five years of age.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle and participate in a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. There are regular opportunities for the children to enjoy fresh air and exercise, for example walking to school or to the local shops. The garden is very well equipped with a variety of climbing apparatus and wheeled toys, which helps children to develop their physical skills and independence. Visits to local parks, farms and open spaces are a regular feature of the daily routine.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They have a good understanding of why they must remove their shoes on entering the house, and why they must wash their hands before preparing and eating food, and after using the toilet.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They have opportunities to prepare some snacks and meals and gain an awareness of the fresh ingredients required for the meal. Older children have free access to a range of juices throughout the day, and regular drinks are given to babies. The childminder takes account of the wishes of the parents and provides nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. A variety of fruit and vegetables are offered to the children on a daily basis. The childminder has sample menus to show prospective parents, and takes account of the children's special dietary requirements and allergies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. Appropriate safety precautions are in place to minimise the risk of accidents. Children benefit from a well organised and child orientated environment. They have plenty of space to move freely between the ground floor rooms which promotes independence and self help skills, for example, by taking themselves to the toilet or playing in the kitchen/diner or lounge area.

Children have access to a range of good quality, developmentally appropriate resources and equipment which are checked regularly to ensure their safety.

Children learn about safe practices because the childminder skilfully explains safety rules, for example, the dangers of small parts in the African Stone Game could present as a choking hazard to the toddler.

Children learn about keeping safe on the roads, for example on walks to school, parks and local shops. The childminder explains safety rules for outings, for example, road safety, holding hands and crossing at the pedestrian lights. Children are gaining some awareness of fire safety through discussion, books and simple computer games, such as Fireman Sam, however fire safety could be improved further by practising an emergency escape plan with the children.

Children are protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection and is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse. She has written policies and procedures in place which are shared with the parents, and she ensures that she regularly updates her knowledge and understanding by attending relevant training courses.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident within the setting. The childminder effectively supports the children's individual needs, taking into account their different ages and stages of development. The childminder shows awareness of the Birth to Three Matters framework to further promote young children's development.

The children benefit from a range of interesting and varied outings, such as visits to parks, farms, toddler groups and fishing trips. Outdoor play and fresh air and exercise play an important part in the daily routine. There are opportunities for the children to plant bulbs and to develop knowledge and understanding of the world.

Children enjoy an excellent range of play resources and activities, all of which are easily accessible to the children to encourage independent learning. Children enjoy listening and acting out stories, using role play and visual props. Creative play is an important part of the daily routine, and the children's work is attractively displayed throughout the home. Children are able to take part in cooking activities and are able to assist on occasions in preparing some of their meals.

Children have regular opportunities to play board games and to learn about shapes, letters and numbers using a range of good quality resources, including puzzles, books, and writing materials. Children enjoy operating simple computer programmes, gaining good mouse skills and developing hand-eye co-ordination. The childminder interacts in a positive way to introduce new ideas, encourage conversation and extend all areas of the children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the good relationship the childminder has with the parents.

Comprehensive written policies and procedures are in place, and information is shared with parents on a daily basis. The childminder completes a detailed Contact Book and highlights important information to ensure that it is not missed. Children settle well due to close partnership between the parents and childminder, and the effective system of sharing information between the carers.

Children feel very much at home within the setting. They are confident and at ease with the childminder and feel able to ask her for drinks, food and help with activities and games.

The daily routine is structured and well planned. Children's ideas and their likes and dislikes are taken into consideration when planning activities and outings.

Children are well behaved, occupied and aware of the boundaries and house rules. They respond appropriately to the expectations of the childminder, for example, by sharing and taking turns and playing co-operatively together. All of the children, including the toddler, are aware of the house rule regarding removal of outdoor shoes.

Children are increasing their awareness of the wider society by having access to a range of play resources and opportunities. They visit the local shops and farms, and festivals and celebrations are incorporated into the daily activity planning. The childminder has a wide range of play resources that positively reflect areas of equality, and she ensures that the children have choice of play materials, regardless of gender.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child development and the way in which children learn. Space, equipment and resources are well organised to meet the individual needs of the children cared for. The home environment is welcoming and child orientated, and the daily routine helps children to feel secure and comfortable in the childminder's care.

The childminder is keen to update her knowledge on child care issues, and has completed various training courses since becoming registered.

The settling in period is discussed with parents to meet the children's individual needs. Comprehensive written policies and procedures are in place and are shared with parents. The childminder efficiently organises documentation to underpin the safe management of the service provided. Overall children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

N/A

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- Improve fire safety precautions by practising an emergency escape plan with the children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk