



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315118
Inspection date	25 April 2006
Inspector	Clare Stone

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 2005. She lives in a 2 bedroom house with her husband and pre-school aged child. The house is situated in a housing development just outside Maidstone town centre. The whole of downstairs is used for minding and the upstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. At the time of inspection the childminder has one child on roll, who attends part time. The childminder lives within walking distance of toddler groups and local shops. The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children benefit from having healthy meals and snacks throughout the day. Parents can provide their own meals if they wish and work in partnership with the childminder to cater for their children's individual needs. Children have access to drinks whenever they are thirsty. This promotes independence and prevents children from becoming dehydrated. Children learn about hygiene practices and how to incorporate these into their daily routines, assisting in a healthy lifestyle. The children have the opportunity to expand on their physical skills with regular visits to the park and a wide range of outside toys. The childminder ensures the welfare of the children in her care by clear procedures not to mind children if they are unwell.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The risk of accidental injury to the children is minimised by the childminder's regular informal risk assessments. This means children are able to move around freely and make choices for themselves. Toys and equipment are checked on a regular basis and replaced if damaged. The childminder has systems in place to keep the children safe on outings, such as talking about road safety and holding their hands. This allows them to explore and investigate their surroundings. The childminder has some knowledge of child protection procedures and possible signs of abuse. However, this is limited, which compromises the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved in a wide range of fun and stimulating play opportunities. Children enjoyed playing with play dough and shared books together. They are able to choose freely from the resources available. This promotes independence and builds on their self-esteem. As a result the children were absorbed, settled and happy. The children are confident in their relationship with the childminder and their peers. This ensures the children are making good progress through appropriate care and interaction. The children are talked to in a kind and reassuring fashion allowing them to be themselves and express their likes and dislikes. The childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder treats children with respect and as individuals. This helps them feel good about themselves and builds on their self esteem. Although the childminder has

limited resources that promote diversity in the community, children are taught to think of other people and respect their feelings. Children's behaviour is good and the childminder uses praise to reinforce good behaviour. The childminder feels it is important to work in partnership with parents in all areas of their children's development. This ensures continuity of care. Although there are no children on roll with special needs, the childminder is forward thinking in how she can support and assist parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the national standards. She is organised with all her documentation which is paramount to the children's welfare. The children benefit from clear procedures in place for working with parents and sharing information. The childminder is aware of the importance of confidentiality and keeps all records stored in a safe but accessible folder. The childminder is committed to extending and developing her knowledge and attends relevant childcare courses. This will help to develop and extend her existing practice. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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.

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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 knowledge and understanding of possible signs of abuse and procedures.
- increase resources that promote positive images of diversity in the community.

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