



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126347
Inspection date	05 June 2006
Inspector	Linda Margaret Nicholls

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 1990. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and when working with another childminder may care for a maximum of six children. She is currently co-minding with another childminder in Sutton at Hone, Kent. The ground room purpose built playroom is available for child care. There is an enclosed secure rear garden for outside play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about routine hygiene practice and are encouraged to be independent in their self care skills, such as toileting and washing hands. Children can view a variety of positive pictures and words giving information about germs and hygiene to promote their understanding

as they wash their hands. Children currently share a towel to dry their hands which does not inhibit cross infection effectively. Children play in a clean environment. A rota is used to ensure all toys are appropriately cleaned and ready for their play.

Children have plenty of room to extend their physical skills. They use ride-on toys in the rear garden, join in with TV exercise sessions or visit local parks to use large equipment such as swings and slides. They benefit from fresh air and a change of scene.

Children enjoy freshly cooked meals that promote healthy appetites. They are given a good range of foods that introduce new tastes, such as broccoli and cabbage. Children's preferences and requirements are taken into consideration. Meals meet their dietary needs. Children are given healthy options for snacks. Biscuits are offered in moderation. The childminder promotes the drinking of fresh water which is freely available and accessible to all children to drink when they want.

Children who have an infection do not attend, which helps prevent the spread of contagious ailments. Their health and safety is maintained as effective records and procedures are followed. The childminder has received signed consents to seek emergency advice, to administer medication and has a secure system to inform parents when the medication is administered. Individual details are recorded on the attendance register and presented confidentially.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and adults are welcomed into an organised and well ordered play room. They extend their play across the clear and uncluttered floor and surfaces of the purpose built playroom. Children move freely and safely in a secure and comfortable environment. There is good natural light, an air conditioning system and sufficient natural ventilation. The premises and good quality equipment are well maintained.

Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous, such as cleaning liquids and powders, because the provider makes regular effective checks for risks and hazards. She ensures they do not enter other rooms and uses a safety gate. Children are stimulated and make independent choices from accessible resources stored in open, free standing toy boxes and shelving.

Children feel cared for and secure as they are closely supervised at all times both in the home and outside. They move freely and go to the childminder for close contact when they need it. The provider ensures a safe environment because fire safety recommendations are in place. A written emergency exit procedure has been thought through and parents are informed. Parents provide written consents to transport and for outings. They are informed of appropriate contact numbers and public liability insurance is current.

Children's welfare is well protected because the provider has attended child protection training and has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She has informed parents of the procedure she will follow should she have concerns about a child in her care. Local contact numbers are accessible and her procedures reflect local authority practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are stimulated, supported and make effective progress in their individual development. They have access to a broad and varied range of activities. They enthusiastically try new skills like placing puzzle pieces and brushing hair. The provider successfully supports their play and learning by introducing a topic for all children to participate in. For example a child claps her hands, laughs and wiggles her hips while mimicking a presenter on a children's television programme. Children make posters and are inventive in their display of everyday items made of shapes like triangles and squares.

Children know their work is valued. They learn to negotiate, share and take turns in their play. They develop consideration for others because good role models are provided. Children know the ground rules because the provider quietly praises and consistently reinforces behaviour she wants.

Children's development is promoted because the provider uses everyday events to engage and stimulate them. Children enjoy experimenting with creative and messy resources. They dribble glue or use their creative imagination to construct a volcano developing their understanding of the physical world.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected and allowed to feel good about themselves as the provider has a sound understanding and attitude towards racial and cultural diversity. Children explore differences and similarities via a modest range of positive images including books, TV programmes, action figures and dolls. Children benefit from continuity of care as the childminder works with families to provide the specific care they need. The dignity and privacy of all children are respected.

Children are learning to respect each other and behave appropriately because the childminder ensures basic ground rules are consistently applied. Children are encouraged to share, take turns or to work alongside each other. The provider gives simple explanations. Children respond positively to praise and encouragement. A discussion of behaviour methods is undertaken at the first visit. An inventive poem informs parents the provider does not use physical punishment.

The partnership with parents is very well established. Written agreements and children's details are held separately and confidentially. Parents provide information of their family preferences and personal requirements. The child's GP details and medical information are held securely. Most written consents are in place. Daily information is exchanged ensuring potential concerns are resolved immediately. The childminder has a written complaints procedure that reflects current requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children show established self confidence and a sense of belonging in an organised and welcoming home. They are stimulated and engaged because play space and activities are adapted to meet their individual requirements. They thrive with a range of physical activities both inside and outside the home. The provider is experienced and has recently updated her first aid training and knowledge of statutory requirements. The registration document is displayed and the attendance register records when children are present. Most documentation is available and ensures children's welfare is supported. The provider is aware to inform parents and the registering body of significant changes to her provision. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider agreed to gain written consent to transport children and to seek emergency advice or treatment. This are now held in children's individual records and children benefit from continuity of care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is requested 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):

- reconsider hand drying methods to prevent the spread of infections.
- obtain written consent from parents to take photographs.

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