



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	156766
Inspection date	19 May 2006
Inspector	Beth Kingsland
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 2001. She lives with her husband and three children aged five, seven and nine in Minster, Kent. The whole ground floor 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding two on a rota basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The childminder has a three cats, two tortoises, a snake and a lizard.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association and BUPA Children @ work.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in an environment that contributes effectively to their good health. Children have access to an enclosed garden and benefit from the regular walks into the countryside. They are encouraged to gain increasing control of their own bodies and receive good support from the childminder. For example, playing confidently in a ball-pool.

The childminder makes good use of the Birth to three matters framework. Children's emotional well-being is extended through activities that allow them to express and communicate their feelings freely. For example, young children complete activities independently responding to questions through hand movements and vocal sounds.

Children receive a nutritious, healthy and balanced diet which is varied to meet their individual needs. They are encouraged to make independent food choices; for example, children discussed what they would like for snack time and spoke openly about their likes and dislikes. They are encouraged to prepare and eat meals together. This allows children to enjoy food and become independent in feeding themselves.

Children are beginning to learn about the importance of good personal hygiene routines. They wash their hands before meal times and independently select tissues when required. Procedures for changing nappies afford children their privacy and dignity and are completed hygienically and safely.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children can move freely within the well-organised, inviting environment, both inside and within the garden area. Comprehensive risk-assessment procedures ensure children have easy and free access to a good range of well-maintained equipment that is effectively organised to encourage the children to select independently. For example, resources are presented in low level boxes that are organised for children's stages of abilities.

The children are very aware of the importance of staying safe, for example, keeping areas of the floor space free from equipment to ensure easy access and freedom of movement. They are kept free from harm when they are away from the premises, due to close supervision and the childminder's clear knowledge of health and safety procedures.

Children are protected from potential harm through the childminder's competent knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children experience a wide variety of purposeful and meaningful activities that are planned well to meet their differing needs and abilities. They are well settled and are confident within the surroundings of the childminder's home.

Children can freely select and show increasing independence as they choose and make individual choices. They benefit from activities that allow them to explore, express and use their imaginations. Children respond with delight and excitement as they read stories familiar to them, mimicking the words and becoming the characters. Children's work is valued and displayed sensitively within the home. The childminder's use and clear understanding of the Birth to three matters framework results in younger children experiencing activities that allow them to explore, discover and imitate.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children gain increasing self-assurance through a strong relationship with the childminder. Their views and beliefs are valued and appreciated. They are encouraged to persevere and make personal choices, resulting in children who are well behaved, helpful and tolerant of others.

Children attend a variety of groups, for example trips to the local library. This allows them to socialise with other children and undergo a balance of meaningful and purposeful experiences that extend their knowledge and increase their awareness of the local and wider environment. Children can freely select from an appropriate range of equipment that promotes positive images of culture, gender and disability.

The children's needs are further extend with the strong relationship developed between the childminder and parents and cares. Parents receive clear information about children's daily routine and the childminder's practice. They are encouraged to share any concerns and to speak openly on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from clear routines and a well-organised environment. They are supported in a warm and caring home, which supports their growing social confidence allowing them to be valued and appreciated.

The childminder has adopted clear polices and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. However, the childminder does not organise her records of children to ensure they are available for inspection. Although the childminder was able to discuss how she would administer medication to children, she was unable to provide medication records to confirm correct procedures are completed.

There are clear planning systems in place to ensure effective procedures are adopted to keep children safe and enable them to make good progress. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were highlighted relating to equality of opportunity and documentation. Satisfactory progress has been made with has a positive impact on outcomes for children. Children receive good opportunities to access resources that reflect images of culture, ethnicity and disability. Although children's information sheets are completed, these are not always organised effectively to ensure they are readily accessible and available for inspection. As a result, this issue will form a recommendation following this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

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

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):

- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times.

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