



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY257947
Inspection date	11 September 2006
Inspector	Vanessa Wood

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 2003. She lives with her husband and two young children in Yalding. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house and one bedroom upstairs is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children, one under five years and two over five years, before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local parent and toddler groups. The family have two guinea pigs, a gold fish and a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well because the childminder maintains a clean and hygienic home, has good arrangements for providing healthy meals and provides children with opportunities for active physical play. Children take care of their personal needs such as washing their hands and learn the importance of wearing sun cream and a hat in the sun. Any minor accidents are managed well by the childminder who holds a current first aid certificate and is therefore able to administer appropriate care in an emergency. Children enjoy generally good meals and nutritious snacks. For example the childminder ensures the fruit bowl is available for children to help themselves to fruit at any time. She also provides parents with sample menus so that they are aware of the food she provides. Children are encouraged to take part in preparing the evening meal. For example they make a pizza and choose the topping that they like, discussing healthy options. Children benefit from regular exercise as they walk to and from school every day. They access a range of toys in the secure garden and the childminder also takes children to adventure playgrounds and the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a secure, organised and well supervised play environment which allows them to move around safely. They have easy and safe access to toys and resources appropriate for their age. For example, the childminder provides a play room where children can easily access toys and resources and they independently access toys that they want to play with. In good weather children have free access to the safe garden with appropriate toys such as the large sand pit and ride on toys, which are checked by the childminder regularly for safety. Clear procedures are in place to keep children safe on outings because the childminder teaches children the importance of road safety. The childminder has undertaken training on child protection and has a good understanding of how to report concerns which promotes children's well being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's and relate well to the childminder and her family. They learn to co-operate and share and play together. The childminder encourages children to do things for themselves such as getting ready for walking to school. Children confidently explain what they want to do and can access appropriate equipment and resources promoting independent choice. Children use their imagination well as they play in the tent in the garden. They enjoy playing a game of 'Guess Who' helped by the childminder who encourages good conversation to extend children's vocabulary and learning. Children learn about natural things as they help to water the strawberries and look for conkers on the way home from school. They also enjoy making their pizzas for tea, choosing what toppings they want and learning about

different tastes and textures. The childminder has some understanding of the Birth to three matters framework but has not incorporated this into her planning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals and their differences respected. The childminder uses relevant information gained from parents to ensure the correct and appropriate care is offered to each child. Children have access to books and a few resources that show diversity in the world. Children's behaviour is managed effectively because the childminder has a clear and consistent approach. She encourages children to take responsibility for their own needs. For example children are encouraged to dress themselves before going to school and all children are able to dress themselves reasonably well. Children benefit from praise for things well done and children automatically say please and thank you and understand good manners. Parents have a close relationship with the childminder. They are welcomed into the home and the childminder ensures they are fully aware of her service through the comprehensive service statement and policies. She works closely with parents to ensure continuity of care. The childminder uses a daily diary for babies to ensure parents are kept fully informed about the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised setting where they receive sufficient adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The childminder has good daily routines in place to meet the needs of all children. For example ensuring children are taken to school and collected on time and there is a time for younger children to sleep between outings. Documentation is well organised and accurate. All legally required records which contribute towards children's health, safety and wellbeing are in place and kept confidential and secure.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there were two recommendations. To develop knowledge and understanding of special needs and to ensure that all books promote diversity and equal opportunities.

The provider has taken some training to improve her understanding of special needs, although this is ongoing. With regard to the second recommendation, she has bought books which promote diversity and give a positive image of equal opportunities. She has purchased a book case and all books are stored within easy reach of the children so that they can access these independently.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the 1 April 2004 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):

- improve planning to ensure the developing needs of all children are met, particularly with regard to implementing the Birth to three matters framework

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