



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126074
Inspection date	22 September 2006
Inspector	Melissa Tickner
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1991. She lives with her husband and four children, three of whom are over the age of sixteen, in Westerham, 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog and a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to develop an appropriate awareness of being healthy through aspects such as use of individual hand towels and hand washing after toileting. However strict hygiene procedures are not being implemented by the childminder as the nappy changing mat is not cleaned before or after use and is extremely worn with exposed padding, which is not fully hygienic or easy to keep clean. Dummies dropped on the floor are also returned to children after they have been held in the childminder's mouth, which does not promote strict hygiene procedures with children. Children are provided with meals and snacks from their parents, although the childminder is happy to provide cooked meals on request. There are no systems to encourage parents to promote healthy eating within their children's lunch boxes, as for example children eat crisps for their snack. Younger children are offered their bottles of milk at appropriate times and older children help themselves to their cups of juice to enable them to remain hydrated at all times. Children benefit from physical activity most days, which may include trips to the park, local walks or playing in the garden. This helps children begin to develop an enjoyment of and understanding that physical exercise contributes to a healthy lifestyle. The childminder has an understanding of the requirement to record accidents and medication administration. The childminder has a valid first aid qualification to enable her to act appropriately in the event of an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are cared for in a mostly safe home environment; however currently there is some low level glass accessible, and bottles are stored at a low level in the kitchen, accessible to children. These aspects present a hazard to children. They have access to a reasonable range of toys, many of which are stored in a large toy bucket at floor level to encourage them to make choices. The childminder promotes and maintains safety with children appropriately. For example, she encourages children not to climb on the furniture and to be careful when pushing the pushchair. This helps teach children to take care of themselves and keep them safe whilst in her care. The childminder has suitable systems in place for ensuring children's safety when on outings, and when playing in the garden, including close supervision at all times. The childminder has an inadequate knowledge and understanding of child protection issues; she does not have a sufficiently clear awareness of signs and symptoms of abuse and procedures to follow. Consequently she is unable to fully safeguard children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Generally, children seem settled and content in the childminder's care. They relate well to her and her own family, and play well together. The childminder provides a variety of age appropriate activities and outings for the children, such as trips to the park, outdoor play and a range of toys such as trains, dolls and buggies, a toy cooker and play food. Children enjoy playing with

these and generally appear to be happy and confident. The childminder is aware of the needs of children being cared for, and gives time for rests and bottle feeds, playing quietly as well as supporting children in their chosen activities. She encourages all children to get involved in their chosen activities and chats to them at their level as they play, supporting them and offering them encouragement and help as needed. This helps children to enjoy and achieve throughout their time with the childminder. There is no planning or framework in place to enable young children make good progress in the childminder's care, such as the Birth to three matters.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Although the childminder generally meets children's individual needs, she has a seriously limited understanding of the importance of equal opportunities issues and how to promote this when caring for young children. Consequently, children are not developing a clear understanding of diversity or being helped to develop positive attitudes in this area. Children are praised regularly and good behaviour is encouraged. A satisfactory approach is taken to managing children's behaviour, and the childminder regularly encourages sharing. She is fair and encourages all children to play together, offering clear explanations to children when needed. These aspects help children feel secure in the childminder's care. There are appropriate methods used to work with parents, they are offered time for daily discussions and the childminder is willing to keep a written diary if parents request it. This helps ensure children's needs can be met and parents are able to receive information about their children.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder works from a reasonably well organised and welcoming home, with plenty of space to care for children. However, she lacks clear organisation in her childminding practices. She does not have a working knowledge or understanding of the National Standards for childminding which impacts on her ability to meet and work to them. Consequently, the childminder is offering mostly inadequate outcomes for children in her care. The childminder has an extremely basic set of paperwork in place, and not all legally required documentation is in place. This includes documentation for children being cared for on an emergency basis, the legally required complaints documentation, and other documentation such as contracts for all children. The childminder has also failed to notify Ofsted that three of her adult children are over the age of sixteen, this is a legal requirement and the childminder has a duty to notify Ofsted of any significant changes. The childminder has failed to update her knowledge, awareness and understanding of changes that have taken place in childcare and has no systems in place to ensure she can keep up to date with such developments. With the exception of a first aid certificate, no training, qualifications or short courses have been completed since she first registered. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in November 2003, the childminder was set six recommendations. Some of these have been met, however many remain incomplete. The childminder now has a diary to record children's time of arrival and departure and has a system in place to record medication administration and accidents. Appropriate insurance cover is in place for using the car. The childminder has not ensured that CRB checks have been carried out on anyone over the age of sixteen resident, which is a legal requirement. This compromises children's safety. The childminder lacks a working knowledge of equal opportunities issues, and lacks a good understanding of the importance of this aspect, and so is unable to promote this positively. Knowledge and understanding of child protection issues have not been developed, although the childminder reports she has obtained the relevant required contact details. This issue also compromises children's safety as the childminder currently has insufficient understanding to enable her to safeguard children effectively.

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

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The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure anyone aged 16 or over has relevant police checks completed
- develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities issues
- ensure knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures is improved
- ensure all legally required paperwork is in place, including a complaints record, details for all children in your care and contracts for all children.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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