



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126522
Inspection date	13 June 2006
Inspector	Mary Van De Peer
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 1999. She lives with her husband and children in Ashford, Kent. Most areas of the house are used for minding children. 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 four children. The childminder drives or walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler groups. The family has a dog and rabbits.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean home with a welcoming environment. They are beginning to learn about appropriate hygiene practices and personal care. The childminder is keen to promote hand-washing before eating snacks or meals. The children benefit from the childminder's effective written sickness policy. This is shared with parents. Parents also give individual written consents for the administration of medication and sun creams. If children have any minor accidents, these are treated appropriately, as the childminder has a recognised first aid certificate. The required record keeping is also in place. Children are cared for according to their parent's requirements. Children are offered a selection of nutritious snacks, for example, fruit. Parents of younger children provide their meals and drinks. Children are beginning to learn about healthy eating. The childminder often walks to the school and to local parks, so children benefit from regular physical exercise and fresh air. There is also a range of play equipment available for children indoors, such as puzzles, shape sorters and a mini trampoline. Children are able to rest when they need to.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home environment where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around freely and independently. Children benefit from the use of appropriate equipment such as stair gates, cupboard locks and socket covers. The toys and play resources available are suitable and appropriate. Children are also kept safe when off the premises, through various procedures used by the childminder covering travel in the car as well as when out walking. Children are learning about how to keep themselves safe. The childminder has a child protection policy, however it lacks important detail. There is an emergency evacuation procedure in place, which is discussed with older children. Fire safety equipment is in place. Procedures for children's safety are explained to parents to help reassure them. The childminder also ensures she has appropriate information for the safe collection of children. Overall, children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has developed a warm and caring relationship with the children she minds. Their individual needs and requirements are catered for by the use of suitable, good quality toys and activities. Most of these resources are stored at children's height so they can make choices in their play. Children are confident and are starting to relate well to each other and adults. They can also socialise with other children through regular visits to local toddler clubs. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to help guide her. This results in her being able to provide activities such as story telling, art and craft and role play to promote the children's learning. They listen to stories and enjoy singing rhymes. All children are progressing and developing appropriately.

The childminder is caring, professional and has an understanding of how young children grow and learn.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to use a range of resources which show positive images of people and their different cultures. This helps ensure they learn about each other and their needs. Children receive individual attention when required and get lots of praise in their achievements, for example, posting the right shape through the correct hole in the shape sorter. Children are developing confidence and self esteem. The childminder has effective, written behaviour management strategies which are agreed and shared with parents. Children play freely within effective boundaries. Information on children's achievements and behaviour is shared verbally with parents and is also written in a daily contact book. This ensures that whichever parent collects, both are aware of requests and information. There are several cards and letters from parents saying how pleased they are with the care the childminder provides for their children. The childminder has a service statement, with a few policies and procedures. Parents receive a copy of these. Children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has been caring for children for several years. Her days are planned but flexible, allowing children time for quiet and active play when they need it. She holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. The childminder has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child. The attendance register is completed, however accurate times of children's arrival and departure times are not recorded. Confidential documents are stored appropriately. The childminder's registration certificate is displayed. The childminder also makes sure she has a service contract with each set of parents. Information kept about children is relevant and helps promote their welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has followed the previous recommendations made at the last inspection.

The first recommendation is for the childminder to ensure parents give written acknowledgement of medicine given and that full names of children are used in the accident and medicine records. Parents now provide written acknowledgement alongside the childminder's record of when any itemised medication required for their children has been administered by the childminder. This helps to make sure parents are aware that their children have received the correct medication and dose at the right time. Full names of children are now written in the accident and medication records.

The second recommendation is that the childminder obtain written consent from parents for their children to receive emergency medical treatment. Parents now provide full written consent

for their children to receive emergency medical treatment when and if it is required. Children's well-being is safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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 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):

- ensure children's arrival and departure times are accurately recorded
- consider updating knowledge and understanding on current child protection issues

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