



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY287161
Inspection date	10 May 2005
Inspector	Jane Wakelen

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 September, 2004. She lives with her husband and two school-aged children. They live in a terrace house at Halfway on the Isle of Sheppey. There are shops, schools, pre-schools and parks nearby.

The childminder will generally care for children downstairs in the front room and dining room. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding seven children, six are aged five or over and one child is

under five years.

There are no pets in the household.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities indoors and outdoors to promote their good health. Children have the opportunity, on a daily basis, to develop their physical skills using large play equipment outside in the garden. Visits to a local field or walks along the beach aid children's health and well being. The childminder has a good understanding of children's development and provides activities for children to develop new skills and build on existing skills, providing support when necessary. The childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework and hopes to attend training, to gain a better understanding.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They understand about eating food at the table and putting rubbish in the waste bin, through reminders from the childminder. The childminder provides food and snacks and some children bring their own food. They are able to make healthy choices from the options given and feel confident to state their likes and dislikes and request food and drink when they want it, which results in children's dietary needs being met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a compact home where risks are identified and minimised. This enables children to play safely and confidently. The childminder ensures children understand the rules of the setting, which enables children to feel independent, and able to help themselves stay safe. Children can access their toys and equipment, which are safe, clean and in good repair. The childminder ensures children use toys that are suitable for their age and stage of development, to prevent any hazards such as choking. The childminder carries out a regular risk assessment which ensure hazards are kept to a minimum, and ensures children are always within her sight, as a result children's welfare is safeguarded.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety and has several safety aspects in place, such as a door buzzer and safety gate to prevent access to the kitchen. She also uses a visitors book to record any adults that visit the premises ensuring the safety of the children at all times. All required documentation is in place regarding child protection to maintain the welfare of the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children become independent choosing toys and activities and look for support from the childminder when necessary. She provides an interesting range of toys and equipment which allows children to use their imagination and creativity. Children learn through interaction with the childminder and using a range of toys to promote skills in all areas of learning. The childminder uses everyday routines to promote children's learning, such as looking at food labels on their packed lunch and walks to the park or school, looking at road signs. This builds children's awareness of their world around them and aids their confidence and self esteem.

Children enjoy exploring activities indoors and outdoors. They use a variety of materials and equipment, learning through their senses and are able to show their creations and share their experiences with parents at the end of the day. This raises the children's self esteem and sense of achievement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a developing range of activities and equipment to promote a positive view on the diversity of society. Children learn about others likes and dislikes and how some people celebrate different festivals. They learn about the world they live in through outings and walks and using a variety of books and resources.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder has experience of caring for people with special needs and ensures all children's individual needs are met. She adopts a routine that has been discussed and agreed with the parents. Children are allowed to make choices, and learn to share and take turns. They develop relationships with each other and adults and learn to be independent, such as choosing what to eat and what to play with. The childminder uses praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour, taking into account the ages and stages of development. This enables children to become confident to demonstrate their feelings and their opinions, but gain an understanding of acceptable behaviour within the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and settled in the well organized and tidy environment. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare of the children and keep parents informed about the service offered. The childminder has a good understanding of her role and discusses the care of the children on a regular basis with their parents. This ensures continuity of routine and care for the children, promoting their security.

The childminder organizes her time well, to ensure paperwork is completed, although some policies and written consent needs expanding to ensure parents receive up-to-date information. Documentation is completed regularly and is stored in a secure, lockable container. Thoughtful planning of activities and resources enable children to keep safe and make progress in all areas of development. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 all paperwork is kept up-to-date and contains sufficient detail to keep parents fully informed about the procedures and policies of the childminder.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk