



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY252020
Inspection date	27 September 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and 12 in Sittingbourne, 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding nine children on a rota basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children eat food provided by the parents, which is balanced and nutritious. Children enjoy healthy snacks, for example, children enjoyed a snack of bananas and raisins. Children enjoy fruit every day and snack and meal times are relaxed social occasions where children sit together to eat and chat. They are provided with regular drinks throughout the day, which help to keep children's bodies hydrated.

Children benefit from regular physical activities, helping to increase their awareness of the importance of exercise as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They have access to a well maintained garden area, where they can use a range of play equipment. In addition, they regularly visit the local park which helps to develop their climbing and balancing skills.

Children stay healthy, because the childminder implements highly effective health and hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infection. They learn the importance of following good personal hygiene routines, as they wash their hands before meals and snacks and understand why this is important. Children's health is well maintained because the childminder knows how to deal with accidents appropriately, and implements effective procedures to ensure information is recorded and shared with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the warm and homely environment and are extremely comfortable in their surroundings. They have independent access to a good range of equipment and play provision, suitable and safe for their ages and stages of development.

Clear procedures have been introduced for the arrival and collection of children. The childminder has introduced a comprehensive emergency evacuation plan. For example, fire drills are carried out periodically and fire detection equipment is easily accessible contributing to children's protection in the event of a fire. The childminder has introduced procedures to ensure children are supervised while away from the premises, however, information is not taken of individual children to ensure their safety in the event of an emergency.

Children are protected and safeguarded from harm, because the childminder has a good understanding of her role with regards to protecting children in her care. She knows how to implement local safeguarding procedures, should concerns be raised, and has a good understanding of the records to be kept.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident, enthusiastic and eager to participate within the activities provided for them. They are beginning to forge new relationships together. They are happy and are aware

of their surroundings, freely selecting from the range of equipment that is organised well to allow for variety and freedom of choice.

Children have appropriate opportunities to be imaginative and creative, and explore their senses using a range of tactile materials. They play board games and read stories, cook and enjoy the quality time they spend with the childminder. Children learn to share and take turns as they play games, such as, building blocks into tall towers, showing delight as they tumble to the ground.

Children benefit greatly from the strong relationship they have developed with the childminder. The childminder has a good knowledge of child development and recognises how young children learn through play. She recognises the importance of play in a child's development and provides an exciting range of activities and experiences, suitably matched to children's individual needs and abilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop secure relationships with the childminder and become increasingly self assured developing a sense of belonging. They benefit because the childminder values them as individuals and has a very good knowledge of their individual needs and family and home circumstances enabling them to thrive whilst in her care. She actively promotes positive behaviour, which impacts on children's confidence and self esteem and the relationships they build with one another. Children have free and equal access to a wide selection of activities. They can select from an appropriate range of equipment that promotes positive images of culture, gender and disability. This increases children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

All children are valued and their individual needs fully met. The childminder has a positive attitude towards caring for children with special needs and has a great deal of experience in this area enabling her to increase her understanding of a variety of different conditions and disabilities.

Children benefit from very secure informal relationships between the childminder and their parents enabling them to settle well and feel self assured. Detailed information is exchanged verbally, including details about what their child has been involved in on a daily basis. Parents are well informed about the service the childminder provides.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit because the childminder knows them well and is highly effective in the way she organises her day ensuring she spends individual quality time with each child. She makes good use of her home and resources providing a relaxed and friendly environment in which children are well cared for and outcomes for children are successfully promoted. Consequently, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are protected because the childminder holds the required documentation and has a good understanding of the requirements of her registration. As a result, the welfare, care and learning of children is well maintained.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the inspector identified one recommendation relating to documentation. The childminder was asked to provide parents with details of the procedures for complaints. Parents are now fully informed of the procedures, resulting in good outcomes for children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- ensure relevant information of individual children is accessible while away from the premises

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