



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	103322
Inspection date	05 September 2006
Inspector	Sarah Morfett
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 1996. She lives with her husband and three grown up children in Strood, near Rochester, Kent. The whole 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 four children part time. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a rabbit and a hamster

The childminder is a support childminder for an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contributes to their health and well-being. Each day trips to and from school in the buggy ensures that they have lots of fresh air. Regular attendance at toddler groups and activity play centres help them understand the need for regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. Babies start to learn to control their own bodies as they enjoy opportunities to roll around on a play mat on the floor. They develop sound physical skills. Therefore, children's physical development is promoted well.

Children begin to understand sound hygiene practices because the childminder takes time to talk to them in language they can understand. For example, whilst she washes their hands with wipes before they eat she tells them that this gets rid of germs and keeps them well. Children are protected by the effective sickness and medication procedures in place. However, not all children have written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They are provided with healthy snacks, such as fruit, cheese and tomatoes by their parents. Drinks are readily available and children are offered these regularly by the childminder. All children's dietary requirements are recorded and their likes and dislikes are taken into consideration. Children's dietary needs are considered well.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where risks have been identified and minimised. This enables older and younger children to move around safely, freely and independently. They can make independent choices from a range of stimulating activities which are displayed invitingly at their level and can be easily accessed. All the toys are cleaned regularly and checked to ensure there are no broken pieces. Children benefit from the good condition of all resources.

Children's safety within the home is promoted well. Regular risk assessments that are carried out ensure that they have a safe and secure environment in which to play. Younger children are well supported, with the childminder's help they learn about safety rules, such as, plug sockets at their level being made inaccessible and safety gates to protect them from areas that are hazardous. Therefore, children learn about keeping themselves safe.

The childminder has most of the procedures and documentation in place to ensure that the children's welfare is safeguarded, for example, she holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder has a good understanding of the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care. She has attended child protection workshops to develop her understanding. Therefore, children can feel safe and secure because of her well developed knowledge.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well settled at the childminder's house. They appear confident and make themselves at home quickly. Toys and resources are readily available and children show confidence in choosing from a stimulating range of experiences. These suit the children's needs and cover the areas of development, such as, activity centres and pop-up-toys, kitchen and role play equipment. Children learn from the good range of resources.

Children enjoy lots of different activities. They spend time playing with the toys and enjoy singing to the musical programmes on the television. They make good progress as the childminder interacts well. For example, she constantly talks to them and names everyday objects. This helps them to develop their vocabulary. Number puzzles help children to count. Therefore, children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities are developed.

Younger children benefit from a close relationship with the childminder; she listens and responds to gestures and non-verbal communication helping babies to become skilful communicators. Children are able to learn social skills, such as sharing and building relationships as they socialise with the other children, the childminder and her older children. Children thrive within the warm relationships being developed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a varied range of activities and resources which promote a positive view of the world around them. For example, small world play people and books reflect faces from different cultures. This means children's awareness of diversity is encouraged. Activities offered to children are age-appropriate and non-discriminatory. All children have equal opportunity to play with all toys and resources. All children are treated with equal concern.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude towards behaviour management. Strategies used are adapted for the ages of children attending. For example, positive reinforcement helps them learn right from wrong. Children feel acknowledged as important individuals because the childminder gives attention for positive behaviour and ignores unwanted behaviour. Therefore, children behave well and make the most of their time with the childminder.

Children are valued as individuals. Their needs are met as their normal daily routine is shared verbally with parents each day. Parents are kept well informed of the care their children receive by discussion with the childminder and a regularly reviewed service statement. Children are very happy with the childminder and make good progress. Children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease within the suitably organised environment. Children are confident and self-assured. This means that they are able to initiate and extend their learning

and play. An appropriate range of resources contributes to sound experiences for children. Children make steady progress in all areas of development.

A service statement developed by the childminder helps to promote children's welfare, care and learning. This is shared with parents to ensure they are informed of the care their children receive. However, some paperwork is inconsistent and not up-to-date. The childminder has regard for the regulations in the National Standards.

Most documentation is maintained to a satisfactory standard. The childminder has a positive attitude to keeping her knowledge of children's development up-to-date. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise a policy which informed the parents of the procedures to follow when children are ill and detail the exclusion periods. This has now been developed and a statement is in place. Therefore, children are protected from risk of cross infection.

Also she was asked to obtain written permission for emergency medical advice and treatment for the parents. This has been obtained for some children and not others. Therefore, remains a recommendation at this inspection.

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

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 that all paper work is kept up-to-date and reflects current contact details.
- ensure that all children have written permission for emergency medical advice and treatment.

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