



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125787
Inspection date	15 September 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 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 1988. She lives with her husband and family in High Halden, near 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding one child. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet dog. 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 good.

The childminder's home is clean, child-friendly and welcoming for both children and their parents. There are appropriate hygiene procedures place for children to follow. If children are unwell they stay at home. This helps to reduce the risk of cross contamination. An accident and medication administration book is kept, however entries are not confidentially recorded. The childminder has attended a recognised first aid course and has a first aid kit. This means that children's minor injuries can be treated effectively. Children are offered a good selection of snack foods which are healthy and nutritious, for example fruit and cheese. The childminder supports and works well with parents in this area. Parents have the option to provide meals if they prefer. Children learn about healthy eating. Children benefit from regular physical exercise as there is a range of physical play equipment available both in the garden and indoors. They take regular walks to local parks with the childminder. Children enjoy the physical exercise. They are also able to rest when they need to.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are able to use child-sized furniture and equipment, for example chairs and toy storage. Appropriate equipment is used for the age range of children attending, such as buggies and high chairs. The childminder has a travel cot for babies and toddlers who need to rest. This is used wherever the child and parent feel comfortable with. Babies can crawl and learn to walk in a child-friendly environment. Emergency evacuation procedures and fire safety equipment are in place. The childminder discusses this with children. This helps ensure children's safety is promoted. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She shares her child protection procedure with all the parents. Children are kept safe from harm and neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children really enjoy their time with the childminder. They have made themselves at home. The children are progressing very well. This is a result of them being able to participate in and play with age appropriate toys and activities, for example role play, colouring and messy play. There is another registered childminder living next door, this enables the children to play with each other. This also helps develop their social skills. Children's independence is promoted well as they are able to choose what they want to do and play with. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to adapt her resources such as story telling and mark making to promote younger children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to follow the childminder's few simple house rules. For example, saying please and thank you. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are in place and the children behave well. The childminder discusses her behaviour management procedures with parents. They are learning about the world through outings and resources that introduce them to other cultures and different environments. The childminder has cared for a child with additional needs. She has a positive attitude about the care they require. The childminder has built up good working relationships with parents. She offers a contact book and she makes sure they discuss the children's achievements when they are picked up. Children benefit from the continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has been caring for children for many years. She holds a current paediatric first aid certificate and has attended several short courses. However, although the childminder has not been able to attend the Birth to three training, she is experienced in caring for babies and young children. She supports their growth, development and emotional well-being competently. All adults in the household have been appropriately vetted. The childminder has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child. Clear consent forms signed by parents for situations such as transportation and photographs are unavailable. The attendance register is completed daily and any relevant paperwork is shared with parents. There is a procedure in place to record complaints. Written information regarding the childminding service, as well as related policies and procedures is available for parents. Confidential paperwork is stored securely. The childminder ensures children are well supervised at all times. They receive good support from her and she enjoys their company and knows them well. This helps them feel secure and confident. Regular, informal discussions with parents help ensure continuity of care for the children. 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 recommendation, resulting from the last inspection. She is recommended to provide parents with copies of written service statement and policies. The childminder has re-written her service statement and policies. Parents receive a copy of this, along with any other required forms for completion. This helps maintain continuity of care for the minded children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 accident book entries are recorded confidentially
- ensure relevant consents are obtained from parents are obtained, eg transportation, emergency medical 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