



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125788
Inspection date	28 September 2006
Inspector	Melissa Tickner
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 1984. She lives with her husband and two of her three adult children in Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The whole ground floor and one bedroom on the first 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding four children, three of whom are under five. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are exposed to good hygiene practices by the childminder such as ensuring their dummies are sterilised when they have fallen on the floor and using hand sanitizer regularly to avoid the spread of infection. The childminder encourages positive practices with children such as regular hand washing, although older children are not currently provided with their own individual hand towel for hygienic hand drying. Toys are regularly cleaned and the childminder promotes hygiene positively. Children are provided with healthy meals and snacks and the childminder actively promotes healthy eating. Bottles are made up and warmed appropriately for babies and they are held and comforted appropriately as they take their bottle. Children enjoy regular physical activity and attend local toddler groups, using local facilities such as the parks and playgrounds to develop their skills. They enjoy active physical play daily, to promote and encourage their physical skills and enjoyment of physical activity. A first aid certificate is in place, as are the required medication and accident records. However, the medication record has not been completed accurately, as currently only verbal permission is given prior to administering medication. It is a legal requirement to ensure that prior written permission is obtained before giving medication to children. This means current systems are not in line with legal requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to access a good range of safe and suitable toys which are set up to encourage them to help themselves. For example, during the inspection young children are able to play on their tummies and reach out to a suitable and varied range of baby toys that are sensory and age appropriate. Children are cared for in a welcoming home environment which is safe and appropriately organised to meet their needs. Children are supervised well and their safety is promoted in practice. For example, the childminder closely supervises a young baby, and supports them as they begin to learn to crawl and move about. A safe home is maintained and the childminder ensures appropriate equipment is used, such as safety catches on cupboards in the kitchen and smoke alarms at all levels of the house. As a result of these aspects children are safeguarded well in the childminder's care. Children are kept safe on outings, and when playing in the garden, through the childminder's clear procedures and supervision levels. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow should she develop concerns. As a result, children's welfare and well-being is promoted by the childminder.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled, happy and confident in the childminder's care. She supports young children closely as they begin to attempt to crawl, she sits at their level interacting with them and offering them encouragement. Young children reach out to a wide range of age appropriate

toys which encourage their development, such as sensory and cause and effect toys. The childminder encourages young children's language development as a baby chatters and squeals in delight as she finds a toy she is interested in. Children are interested and engaged and cared for extremely well. The childminder is sensitive, supportive and meets children's individual needs well. For example, recognising when it is time for a feed, a rest or when they might need their dummy. Children respond well to comforting and soothing words and songs, cuddles and reassurance, showing they are settled and happy in the childminder's care. The childminder has obtained a copy of the Birth to three matters framework and has also attended a workshop. She intends to start planning in line with this in the future to develop and enhance experiences for young children. The childminder plans a varied week for all children, including regular local outings which involve active play and meeting with other children. A good range of activities and toys are available for children of all ages, contributing to them being able to enjoy and achieve whilst in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated and well cared for as individuals. Their needs are met well and they are cared for appropriately in a welcoming home environment. This helps children feel settled and well supported. They have access to a good range of resources. A basic range reflect the differences in society, this currently limits the way in which children are able to learn about the diversity of our society. The childminder has a positive approach to managing children's behaviour. She uses praise with children and encourages sharing and turn taking. Other methods are used such as distraction and offering toys and activities that are fun and interesting. These aspects help contribute to building children's self-esteem and confidence. There are appropriate methods used to work with parents. The childminder has a range of positive cards from parents praising her work as a childminder. Parents are offered daily verbal feedback and a contact book for children under the age of three. Parents are worked with closely. This helps ensure children's needs can be met and parents are able to receive information about their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has an organised approach to her childminding and works from a well organised home environment which meets the needs of children well. A good range of documentation is in place, including a service statement and a set of policies. All paperwork is well organised and stored appropriately. With the exception of the medication record and maintaining a required complaints record for parents, all documentation is in place and kept up to date. The childminder is committed to her role and regularly attend short training courses to update her knowledge of changes and developments in childcare. She has also commenced the diploma in home child care, contributing to developing a strong knowledge and understanding of childcare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in May 2004, the childminder was set a recommendation to review her complaints procedure, to make reference to the National Childminding Association. This has now been appropriately updated, however an additional recommendation has been set to ensure complaints procedures are in line with the changes made in September 2005.

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 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 parents give prior written permission for the administration of medication
- consider increasing the range of toys to promote diversity
- ensure the required complaints log is in place and the policy makes reference to it

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