



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126805
Inspection date	04 December 2006
Inspector	Stephanie Graves
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 1987. She lives with her partner and three children aged 20, 18 and three, in Sevenoaks, Kent. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house and one upstairs bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five all day on a part time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children and attends a variety of local toddler groups. The family has a pet dog, a cat, two guinea pigs, a hamster and fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with opportunities to learn about good health issues. For instance, the childminder encourages frequent hand washing and tells the children to 'rub your hands together' which helps them to wash their hands properly. Effective procedures help to prevent cross infection. These include the use of appropriate cleaners to disinfect surfaces and ensuring children with infectious ailments do not attend. Children benefit from procedures which ensure their health needs are addressed. For example, accidents and any administered medication are recorded and written consent has been obtained for the childminder to seek emergency advice or treatment. Children's physical development and sense of well being are promoted. They enjoy energetic activities through outdoor play and frequent visits to toddler groups, as well as being able to rest or sleep in comfortable surroundings.

Children are offered frequent drinks and the childminder encourages them to make healthy choices regarding the food they eat. Meals are currently provided by parents and the childminder ensures they are stored in the fridge appropriately to keep them at a suitable temperature. She works with parents to promote healthy eating and children enjoy fruit or a biscuit for snacks. They are encouraged to try different types of food, such as, avocados, cucumber and grapes and take part in cooking activities with the childminder. Children's individual dietary requirements are respected because the childminder works closely with parents to ensure their needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and learn in a safe, secure environment where risks have been identified and reduced. For example, the childminder has ensured her home is secure and areas of the garden have been fenced to prevent children from falling from the grassed area onto the patio. Safety equipment helps to keep children safe, although the smoke detector on the ground floor is not currently working and although a fire extinguisher is available, an expired fire blanket in the kitchen has not been replaced. The childminder ensures all hazardous materials are stored appropriately to help avoid the risk of accidents. Toys and equipment are checked regularly for hygiene and safety. They are easily accessible and meet the individual needs of the children attending. Children are well supervised at all times and written consents are in place for the childminder to take them on outings and transport them in a vehicle. This helps to promote their safety. Young children are developing an awareness of how to help keep themselves safe, because the childminder clearly explains why certain procedures are important. For example, they learn to move play equipment to avoid tripping when singing and dancing to music and know they should walk carefully on the stairs to avoid falling and hurting themselves.

Children are well cared for because procedures promote their welfare and safety at all times. For example, the childminder has an emergency evacuation policy and a procedure to be followed in the event of a child becoming lost or remaining uncollected. She has updated her knowledge

and understanding of child protection issues and has a positive attitude towards ensuring local procedures are updated.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and comfortable in the childminder's home. They enjoy and achieve because she provides them with good support and a stimulating range of toys, resources and activities. These include role play resources, art and craft opportunities, small world play sets, games, puzzles, dinosaurs and books. Outdoor resources include a picnic table, a play house and ride on toys. Children are involved in their chosen activities and enjoy the childminder's input. She uses her imagination to help extend children's play opportunities. For example, she encourages them to link animal pictures with sounds as they play a card game and provides water then asks for 'a cup of tea' when children are playing with role play kitchen equipment. She has a good understanding of the developmental learning needs of all children. She adapts play opportunities to meet the needs of any babies or young children in her care and has an awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children concentrate on their chosen activities. They become engrossed as they take part in art and craft activities using paint, glue, coloured feathers and glitter. The childminder asks questions, such as, 'what colour is this one?' and 'can you find two eyes to put on?' to encourage children to think and communicate about what they are doing. They ask questions in return, including 'can I have some pompoms' as they arrange and glue their chosen materials onto paper. The childminder uses language such as 'shaky shaky shaky' as she helps children sprinkle snow glitter and foil stars over their creations. She spends most of her time playing and talking with the children and provides the necessary experiences to ensure their emotional, physical social and intellectual capabilities are well promoted.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed and treated according to their individual needs. They are given equal chances to develop to their full potential because the childminder ensures they receive adequate support and provides a range of opportunities to meet their developing needs. Toys and resources promote positive images of diversity and include books and dolls. Children learn about the wider world and the similarities and differences between themselves and others through frequent visits to various toddler groups. This also helps to promote their awareness of the local community. Young children learn right from wrong, for instance, because the childminder encourages them to share and take turns as they play. She is a good role model who encourages and praises children for their achievements and good behaviour. This also helps to promote their confidence and self esteem.

Children benefit from consistency of care, because the childminder and parents work closely together to meet their needs. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept informed about all relevant policies and procedures, although the complaints procedure has not been updated to current requirements.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and settled within a generally well organised environment. They feel secure and at ease with the childminder and her own daughter. Documentation and records are shared with parents, although some do not contain updated information about Ofsted and current requirements. The childminder keeps Ofsted notified about relevant matters and displays her registration certificate at all times. First aid training has not been updated, which could compromise children's medical needs if they have an accident or require first aid treatment. The childminder realises this is a breach of National Standards criteria and has booked to attend a course in the near future. Daily attendance records are in place and show clear arrival and departure times for children. Children's welfare, care and learning are promoted due to the policies and procedures, which help to underpin the childminder's practice. The childminder offers a professional service and meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder received one action and a recommendation. She was asked to ensure that all adults in the household complete the necessary checks and to also ensure that records containing children's information remained confidential.

Both the action and the recommendation have been addressed. Checks have been carried out on the adults living at the premises and all information is locked away in a file.

The childminder has taken positive steps towards improving the service she provides and ensuring children are safe and well cared for at all times.

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 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):

- keep up to date with changes concerning the registering body and any new regulations, including the complaints procedure
- ensure an appropriate first aid certificate is maintained at all times
- promote children's safety by ensuring smoke alarms are well maintained and by replacing the fire blanket in the kitchen.

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