



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY216750
Inspection date	19 December 2006
Inspector	Susan Jennifer Scott
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?

This childminder has been registered since 2002. She is registered to provide care for four children under eight years, of these, not more than two may be under five years and not more than one may be under one year. She does not provide overnight care. At present, the childminder cares for three children aged under six years.

The childminder lives with her husband and their two young children. They live in a house in Northfleet. The property is within walking distance to Gravesend Station, schools, pre-schools, carer and toddler groups, shops and parks. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder regularly walks to and from school and visits toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes the health of children successfully through good hygiene practices. Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene routines such as washing their hands after visiting the toilet and before preparing or eating food. They have access to tissues, wipes and individual flannels but share the use of a towel which is clean each day.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and is, therefore, able to administer first aid to children in the event of an accident. She is prepared to seek emergency treatment if needed, using written consent which parents have provided; this ensures appropriate treatment if children need it in an emergency.

The children receive regular food and drinks which parents can supply if they wish. The childminder is happy to supply freshly prepared foods which comply with dietary and religious needs. Children are, therefore, well nourished and healthy. They are encouraged to sit at a small table to eat together which promotes good social opportunities and conversations with each other.

The childminder stores food safely and ensures children are not exposed to any risks by using good food hygiene procedures such as not re-heating foods. The children are provided with snacks that are healthy such as fruits, and help themselves or request a drink whenever they need one; this helps them develop healthy eating habits.

Children enjoy a good balance of energetic activity with times for quiet play and rest in a safe environment. They experience daily physical exercise when they walk to school, or to the library and toddler group. This helps them understand the need for regular exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to feel very settled and secure through the good organisation and use of space. This results in children who feel relaxed and confident in the childminder's care. They benefit from being able to move around safely and independently as a gate is used to block access to areas they should not use.

Children benefit from an attractive, good range of safe and suitable resources and equipment. For example, there are double and single buggies with harnesses for use. Children are able to independently access an interesting range of age appropriate toys which are varied to ensure their interest is stimulated.

Children are encouraged to learn about road safety when on outings, or when walking home from school to develop a sense of their own safety, as well as the safety of others. The childminder has clear procedures for fire safety to ensure children are evacuated safely from

the house and the plan is shared with children and parents, promoting children's understanding for fire safety.

Children are kept safe in the home. They enjoy their play in a safe environment. All the necessary steps have been taken to minimise risks. Children cannot access items that could be dangerous as there are safety measures in place such as stair-gates.

Children are protected from harm as the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and good information is shared with parents through the policy. This safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home, they play well together and are very confident. The childminder is highly skilled and uses her good understanding of the children she is caring for to provide a varied range of experiences and play opportunities to ensure they develop well. The childminder has a good understanding of early years guidance such as Birth to Three Matters and the Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage, which enables her to stimulate and challenge the children. For instance, children experience very good support and guidance when they are using the craft materials like glue and glitter.

The childminder is sensitive towards the children who make good progress because she supports the individual needs of each child. For example, the childminder sounds out the letters phonically so that the four year old can write independently. All the children are making excellent progress. The childminder's recognition of children's efforts helps them develop a strong sense of pride in their achievements, and increases their interest in learning.

All children are happy and eager to participate in the play activities. Those who are new to the environment are helped to settle by the childminder who develops their confidence and independence very successfully. They are encouraged to participate in varied activities which are flexibly planned and well supported. These include craft activities such as making Christmas cards and hats, which they clearly enjoy.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel good about themselves, gaining confidence by being acknowledged by their carer as important individuals. The childminder has an excellent understanding of equality of opportunity and encourages children to talk about things that are important to them such as their home and family which helps them to develop a sense of belonging.

The childminder ensures that all children's developmental needs are discussed so that the needs of all the minded children can be considered. The care they receive helps them develop a positive self-image, as the childminder acknowledges their individual routines for sleeping and eating and ensures these suit their needs.

Children behave very well and play together harmoniously. They benefit from lots of praise and encouragement and their good behaviour is promoted effectively. The childminder manages children's behaviour in a positive way and ensures they are constructively occupied to enable them to experience recognition for their achievements and behaviour. This gives them a sense of pride and boosts their self esteem.

Children benefit from a very positive partnership with parents. Parents are welcomed into the childminder's home and kept fully informed of her practice through regular verbal feedback. Parents have access to a variety of clear and helpful information about the childminding service including policy statements, although these are being extended. This develops parents confidence in the service and ensures the children's welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that children are protected from un-vetted persons through clear procedures. She keeps herself informed of current childcare practices by attending relevant courses such as the first aid course.

Children benefit from the good organisation of the childminding service. They enjoy using a good range of resources which promote their development successfully. They receive very good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The environment is carefully managed to ensure the safety and effective supervision of the children.

The childminder is aware of her responsibility to ensure the documentation is up to date and she has the required procedures in place. Parents are kept informed of children's development and this is supported by the childminder's good understanding of their needs. Records are kept secure and confidential. 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 had one recommendation to consider and she has made good progress in addressing this. The childminder has attended a child protection course and kept the telephone numbers for referral in case she ever needs to refer to these for child protection issues.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The childminder is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which can be seen 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 hand drying procedures safeguard children from cross infection
- develop documentation for parents so that they can access a range of information

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