



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126841
Inspection date	22 November 2006
Inspector	Joanne Wade Barnett
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 1994. She lives with her husband and two school age children in Sevenoaks, Kent. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are local shops, parks, schools and pre-schools within walking distance.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder has a cat and a dog.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The childminder is an accredited member of the Kent childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted in premises that are maintained to a good standard of hygiene and cleanliness. Children begin to learn the importance of good personal hygiene; because, they are supported to wash their hands before eating and both paper towels and towels are provided and changed daily for hand-drying. A clear procedure for accidents, and the childminder's up-to-date knowledge of first aid ensures that she is able to act in the best interest of children should they become ill or have an accident.

A healthy and balanced range of snacks are provided for children by the childminder supporting them to develop an awareness of food that is good for them; for example, children can choose fruit from the fruit bowl and the childminder helps the child to peel the orange at snack time. Dietary requirements are met because the childminder adheres to easily accessible information relating to allergies and preferences.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to play outside and visits to parks. As a result children acquire a healthy attitude to physical exercise and they receive plenty of opportunities to develop their large muscle movements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are safe and secure. Effective procedures for the arrival and collection of children, a clear knowledge and understanding of child protection and a good knowledge of the recommendations for sleeping babies, enables the childminder to contribute to safeguarding children's welfare.

Parents' permission is obtained to transport children in a vehicle and take them on outings. Clear procedures for outings are in place; for example, appropriate restraints and car seats are used and emergency contact details of the children and the childminder are readily accessible so that others can respond appropriately in the event of an accident. As a result, children's safety is promoted away from the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is attentive in her interactions with the children, supporting and encouraging them in their play and learning. She ensures all children receive lots of praise and positive intervention, helping to build on their self-esteem and confidence; as a result, children approach the childminder with ease.

The children clearly enjoy exploring the range of brightly coloured plastic toys that the childminder provides, for example, the child investigates the toys that the childminder gives to her, touching, shaking and sharing the toys. The childminder engages with the child, talking

softly whilst holding a book, talking with the child about the number of bears and giving time for the child to count. Together they laugh and the child smiles and talks about the story in delight. The range of toys available to the children are good and resources to reflect arts and craft to stimulate the senses of young children is offered daily.

Children receive regular opportunities to visit the park and nearby woodland walks where they can explore the local environment and participate in outdoor pursuits and activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well supported to enable them to learn to share and take turns, for example, by encouraging children to take turns in using the toy furniture in the play house. Children are well behaved in response to the childminder's praise and encouragement. They receive cheers for achievements; for example, when they count the characters in the story book.

Children's personal cultures are successfully acknowledged by the childminder because she finds out about their needs and records them on the child's record form. Children find out about the local and wider world through visits out into the community, such as, the library, nearby woods, shops and park. Resources to support children's learning about the diversity of our society are good with a wide selection of books and toys. Children enjoy activities that include festivals celebrated by various cultures such as Chinese New Year and Chinese cooking utensils.

A range of policies keep parents informed and support the childminder's service. Parental permission is obtained for relevant aspects of the service and contracts detailed business arrangements between the parents and the childminder. Consequently, the childminder is able to provide the service that parents request. Parents are made aware of the complaints helpline and the details of the complaints regulation is on file. However, the information regarding the address and telephone number is not current.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The organisation of the setting is good and contributes to positive outcomes for children. The environment is well organised and carefully prepared to ensure children's individual needs are met. The routine accommodates children's individual needs and preferences throughout the day helping them to feel secure. All of the required mandatory documentation and consent forms for the safe and efficient management of the setting are in place and well maintained.

The certificate of registration is displayed and the attendance register confirms that the childminder complies with the conditions of her registration.

The childminder understands the importance of confidentiality and a good working relationship with parents. Parents provide detailed information about their child, to ensure the childminder can provide an appropriate service.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder had one recommendation to undertake a risk assessments which she has completed by devising a checklist which she records monthly.

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 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 complaint policy includes current information regarding addresses and telephone numbers

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