



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	115534
Inspection date	18 January 2007
Inspector	Janette Mary White
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 1998. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Bexleyheath, Kent. All areas of the property are 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 ten children on part time basis. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a dog, two cats and a bird.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children understand the benefits of a healthy diet and are encouraged to make healthy choices regarding the food they eat. They ask or are reminded to drink throughout the day. The childminder has an exceptional understanding of nutritional needs. Children with special dietary needs are catered for and the childminder is aware of safe or unsafe foods to ensure individual dietary needs are met. Children are involved in helping to prepare their own meals, such as making sandwiches. The childminder gives high priority to ensuring that children understand good hygiene practices particularly in relation to recognising the importance of hand washing. The risk of cross infection is reduced as children use paper towels. The use of the garden encourages children's physical skills and they understand why they need to wash their hands after outdoor play. Children enjoy the challenges of climbing apparatus and the freedom and space to run around. They benefit from playing in the fresh air when the childminder extends indoor activities into the garden, such as art and craft. They are not afraid to attempt new challenges for themselves promoting their physical development and sense of wellbeing. Records are maintained on medication and accidents and copies are given to parents. First aid equipment is available and taken on outings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and stimulating environment. There is space for all children to move around, make independent choices and play freely within safe boundaries. The childminder ensures risks are competently assessed and reduced accordingly. Young children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe because the childminder takes time to talk to them and help them understand why certain procedures are necessary, such as why it is important to wait for the childminder before going into the garden. She carefully considers children's safety outside the home. For example, they are encouraged to talk about crossing roads safely. The emergency evacuation procedures have been discussed and practiced with the most of the children. However, the fire policy does not promote all children's awareness. For example, this written policy does not aid younger children's understanding. Younger children are not always familiar with what they should do in an emergency.

Children are safe and well cared for. The childminder ensures the premises are secure and that toys and equipment are safe and appropriate for all ages and stages of child development. Effective procedures ensure the welfare and safety of the children. The childminder has attended a course related to child protection. In this way she has extended her knowledge and understanding of child protection. She has ensured that her practice is underpinned by up to date knowledge of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. However, some information relating to child protection is not included in her policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children quickly settle and make themselves at home in the childminder's house. They show a sense of confidence and self esteem and enjoy choosing from the versatile and wide range of activities and experiences. These include books, games and interactive toys to help children listen, respond and make connections. Children show an exceptional sense of wellbeing and involvement and benefit from close contact with the childminder. They are excited and delighted with their achievements because the childminder takes time to talk to them and praises them for their efforts. For example, well done for helping to tidying away the play dough. The childminder gives children's learning and development a very high priority every day. She uses Birth to three matters framework and is developing the use of the Foundation Stage curriculum guidance to plan interesting activities. Equal opportunities are considered well throughout all that she provides. For example, children are extending their homework by using world maps and flash cards from different countries. They have opportunities to be active as well as time to relax. Children play purposefully and are able to make connections between real life experiences and their play, such as making a shopping list. This is imaginatively extended by the childminder, who encourages and offers different ideas for them to try, such as making a picture list of different foods. Children have other opportunities to be creative and succeed to their own satisfaction by experimenting with art and craft activities, such as using play dough to make every day object's and models. They show excellent levels of curiosity and imagination when lacing teddy bears and reading story books. Children actively communicate with the childminder as they eagerly discuss their favourite activities and interests, such as playing shops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are warmly welcomed, acknowledged and affirmed by the childminder. They demonstrate a strong sense of belonging. Children are provided with an exciting range of toys, resources and experiences. They learn about the world around us because they have access to resources and experiences, which promotes positive images of equality. For example, flash cards from different countries and a puzzle of the world is imaginatively used to develop their understanding of the wider world. The childminder successfully meets the individual needs of all the children in her care. She is forward thinking and considers consistency of care by introducing the same sign language used by the local school. Children are treated as individuals and with equal concern by the childminder. They feel secure and benefit from continuity of care, which comes about through the childminder and parents working very closely together. The childminder has a general awareness of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Children are well behaved and understand the behavioural boundaries set by the childminder. They understand the need to share and how being kind to each other prevents children from being hurt. When teaching the children right from wrong, she is sensitive to children's feelings. The childminder encourages and praises children regularly during their time with her. There is a complaints procedure and a copy is given to parents. She has a effective understanding of her complaints policy and has now introduced a system to record complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very settled and comfortable in a extremely well organised environment. They feel at ease and are secure with their surroundings and the childminder. As a result, they make themselves at home, lead in their play and confident when asking for what they need. The childminder is motivated and keeps herself up to date with current child care practices. In this way she ensures her practice is underpinned by up to date information. She has experience of working with children of differing ages and abilities. The childminder provides an excellent range of policies and procedures, which supports her practice and copies are given to parents. First aid training is up to date. All records are easily accessible and ready for inspection. The childminder is extremely well organised and maintains children's information. She ensures records have all the required written permissions in order for her to take action on the child's behalf. The registration certificate is clearly displayed for parents and the daily attendance record contains clear arrival and departure times for children. Children's welfare, care, learning and development are promoted. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection highlighted three actions and one recommendation to; ensure the exit is clear of hazards, provide a first aid box, and ensure children's personal information is used with parental permission. In addition, to provide an appropriate range of activities and resources which promotes equality of opportunity.

Since the last inspection; the childminder has removed any hazards from the exit and this action relates to her previous property. A first aid box is readily available and parents are aware of the use of their child's personal information. She has extended the range of activities and resources which promotes equality of opportunity.

As a result, children have daily opportunities to play with a good range of resources reflecting positive images of equal opportunities. They are protected as the exits are free from hazards and first aid equipment is readily available. Parents have a clearer understanding who is sharing their children's personal information.

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):

- improve all children's understanding of the fire safety policy.
- continue to develop the child protection policy.

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