



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY319906
Inspection date	01 February 2007
Inspector	Virginia Cooper
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 2006. She lives with her husband and three children in Broadstairs, Kent. One of her children is pre-school age. The whole ground 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding four children after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder is a member of the National Childminder Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes children's health in an environment that is welcoming and maintained to a good standard of hygiene and cleanliness. Children are very comfortable with the childminder and they are very 'at home'.

The childminder does not care for children who are contagious ensuring children are not at risk of cross-infection. Children who become poorly whilst with the childminder are comforted and made comfortable until their parents are able to collect them. The childminder has good procedures in place about the administration of medication to ensure parents are well informed and children are not given anything that is unsuitable.

The childminder holds a current first aid qualification; she is able to administer first aid to children in the event of an accident or emergency. The childminder records any accidents and any first aid that is administered whilst the children are in her care. This results in parents being well informed about what has happened to their child.

The childminder has a regular daily routine which helps children know what to expect and feel secure. When they first arrive home from school, they sit at the table together to eat a healthy and nutritious snack the childminder prepares earlier and they all have a drink. They enjoy this social interaction and chat about what they did at school. Children wash their hands before eating, they are learning about good table manners and food hygiene.

The children have the opportunity to play outside in the fresh air regularly. They expand their physical skills with regular visits to the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has risk assessed her home and undertakes informal safety checks daily to ensure children remain safe. The safety equipment in place is sufficient and suitable to prevent accidents for the children currently attending who are all of school age. The childminder takes a sensible approach to safety and realises that further precautions will be necessary if she cares for younger children and has equipment available she may need, for example, stair gates. Children generally play downstairs; they may occasionally play upstairs if invited to by the childminder's children. They only go beyond the first floor to use the computer, but this is only if accompanied by the childminder.

Children have easy access to a range of safe, age appropriate toys and resources. These are checked regularly to ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child. The childminder is thoughtful and if she realises that a particular toy is popular she sometimes buys another the same to enable children to play together more easily.

The childminder understands her role in the protection of children helping her safeguard children from harm. She understands the signs and symptoms of abuse and has procedures in place to

follow if she has concerns about a child in her care. Her role in the protection of children is documented in her service statement and she shares this with all parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of child development and the importance of providing age appropriate activities, therefore children have opportunities to learn whilst they are playing and enjoying themselves. They choose what they want to play with from a very good selection of toys. She helps to organise them and joins in with their games. Children love to play Bingo and this helps them understand numbers, they take turns and share easily. There is lots of role play and small world equipment that encourages children to use their imagination. Children who are tackling homework reluctantly are given encouragement. The childminder skilfully questions them about what they learn at school to help them complete their homework successfully.

The childminder supervises children with sensitivity; she appreciates that older children enjoy a degree of independence and responsibility; she is respectful of them taking time out, away from the younger children. This encourages their sense of worth. The childminder works flexibly and is happy to be led by the children, for example, after making masks they wanted to produce a puppet show. The sofa was used to create a stage and the childminder and parents watch. All the children get along well, there is a supportive, family atmosphere and they play happily together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality issues and has a positive attitude towards diversity. She has some resources that reflect our multi-cultural society positively, helping children understand that everyone is different. She intends to develop this area and improve the resources available that promote equality of opportunity. Mixed children are able to invite their friends back to the childminder's home to play, ensuring they do not miss out on these experiences. They have become friends with other children in the local community.

The childminder has a willing attitude about caring for children with special needs as long as she feels she can provide an appropriate service. She has some experience of working with children with dyslexia.

The childminder adopts appropriate strategies, according to the age and stage of development, to help children understand right from wrong. Children's behaviour is rarely challenging because they are kept busy and amused.

She expects children to respect one another and take reasonable care of furniture and resources. They understand these simple house rules. The childminder is a good role model; she speaks confidently to the children and treats them with respect. Children are given praise and encouragement so they understand which behaviour to repeat.

The childminder has written policies and procedures informing parents of the kind of service she provides.

She has a good relationship with the parents who all chat easily with her about their children at the end of the day. They all speak very highly about her and the service she provides. They say their children are happy and they particularly appreciate the help she gives their children whilst they do their homework. They feel that she treats the minded children like an extension of her own family providing a homely environment.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The registration certificate is displayed during childminding hours ensuring parents are clear about the conditions of registration. All adults in the household have Criminal Records Bureau checks and these are available for parents to see.

The organisation of the setting is good. There is a flexible routine to the day allowing children to choose freely what they want to play with from a variety of age appropriate toys to keep them amused. The childminder gives them lots of attention and becomes involved in the children's games. She chats with the children as they play encouraging their communication skills. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder is well organised and keeps all the documentation that relates to her childminding business together and confidentially. She keeps all the required records and obtains parental permission where necessary; consequently, parents are kept well informed. She has written policies and procedures that relate to the National Standards, these provide parents with a very clear idea of the service she provides and what is on offer to their children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- consider how to increase the resources that reflect diversity positively

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