

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126074
Inspection date	18 April 2007
Inspector	Janet Marie Thouless

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 1991. She lives with her husband and four children, three of whom are over the age of 16, in Westerham, Kent. 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog and a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-maintained home. They are beginning to recognise the importance of good hygiene practice through the use of individual hand towels, washing before and after meals and toilet routines. The childminder offers the children gentle reminders on hand washing and this helps to reduce the spread of cross infection.

Children are developing healthy eating habits as they are offered healthy lunch and tea options and are provided with regular portions of fresh fruit and yogurts daily. Children are offered drinks on a regular basis which helps them to remain hydrated particularly in the hot weather.

All relevant medical and health documentation is in place, discussed and shared with parents. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate. These aspects ensure she is suitably equipped to deal with accidents or illnesses.

The daily routine enables children to participate in physical play activities, such as regular visits in the park and places of interest. Children also use a range of physical play resources, such as a climbing frame, small trampoline, ball games and wheeled toys. This enables them to develop their gross motor skills and improve their co-ordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a friendly, welcoming environment. They benefit from using the childminder's lounge and conservatory as their playroom. Toys are stored in large plastic containers, which are easily accessible to children and allow them to make independent choices. Space is organised so children are able to move around freely in their play. There is a satisfactory range of equipment, toys and resources, appropriate to the needs of the minded children.

Effective measures are in place to ensure children's safety. Safety film has been fitted to low level glass, safety cover sockets are in place and a fireguard is securely fitted. The childminder has devised an evacuation plan. This has been practised with children, so that they know what to do in the event of an emergency. She raises children's awareness of safety issues, explaining to them the importance of staying together and listening to instruction whilst out walking together.

Children's welfare is protected as the childminder has an understanding of her role and responsibility with regard to safeguarding children. She has obtained recent legislation in safeguarding children and is aware of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and has procedures in place to follow should she have any cause for concern. All these measures contribute to the safety and welfare of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children appear happy, settled and content in the childminder's care. They relate well to her and other family members, and play well together. The childminder provides a variety of age appropriate activities and outings for the children, such as trips to the local park, outdoor play and a range of toys such as cars and a road way, colouring and writing media, puzzles, a toy cooker and play food. Children enjoy playing with these and generally appear to be happy and confident.

The childminder encourages all children to get involved in their chosen activities and chats to them at their level as they play, supporting them and offering them encouragement and help as needed. This helps children to enjoy and achieve throughout their time with the childminder. Currently there is no planning in place; however the childminder has obtained and intends to implement the Birth to three matters framework to further promote young children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are all treated with equal concern by the childminder. The childminder liaises with parents to meet children's individual needs. Parents have the opportunity to talk to the childminder about their child at the beginning and end of the day to discuss their achievements or raise concerns. The childminder is familiar with current regulations relating to complaints. However, the information available to parents does not maintain confidentiality and who to contact in the event of a complaint. As a result, this impacts on the partnership with parents.

Appropriate strategies are used to manage behaviour. Children and parents are made aware of the childminder's expectations through her house rules, which include sharing toys and being kind to each other. The childminder promotes positive behaviour by praising their achievements, and encouraging children to behave well and have good manners.

Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest, such as local shops, play parks and places of interest. The childminder provides a small range of resources that promote the children's learning about the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. The childminder has a positive approach towards caring for children with a range of different needs and abilities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an organised environment and daily routines. They receive support and attention from the childminder to make them feel happy and secure in their surroundings. Space is used well and children are able to initiate their own play from the satisfactory range of resources and play materials on offer.

All required regulatory documentation is in place and maintained with the exception of the complaints record. The childminder has obtained a copy of the National Standards for Childminders, along with current up to date legislation in safeguarding children and promoting equal opportunities to update her knowledge, awareness and understanding of changes that have taken place in childcare. Therefore, 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 was set four actions to improve childcare practice. All of these have been met. The childminder has obtained Criminal Records Disclosure Notices for all members of the household over the age of 16 years and updated her knowledge on safeguarding children to ensure children's safety and wellbeing. Most legally required documentation is in place and updated, such as children's personal records. The childminder has sought written guidance to develop her understanding of equal opportunities issues, such as developing a better understanding of diversity. All of which helps to ensure positive outcomes for children.

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 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):

- improve the outcomes for children under three by using an approach in line with Birth to three matters.
- continue to develop resources that reflect diversity and the understanding of others.
- ensure parents receive full details regarding the complaint procedure whilst maintaining confidentiality.

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