



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125647
Inspection date	17 January 2007
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 1988. She lives with her husband in Sevenoaks, Kent.

The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and two bedrooms on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding 10 children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder collects from local schools. She attends the local parent/toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder follows good hygiene practice whereby daily routines and explanations help children understand that washing hands after visiting the toilet and before meals reduces the risk of passing on germs. Accident and medication records are available, however, parents' permission is not in place to obtain emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children have their own drinking cups, which are easily accessible, helping children to keep their bodies hydrated. Children's dietary needs and preferences are catered for as parents provide all meals for their children. Snacks are generally balanced and nutritious, contributing to children's health.

Children regularly enjoy a range of activities in the garden that contribute to their health and development, weather permitting. The childminder organises outings to the park and in the local community, where there is large play equipment, which gives children plenty of opportunity to develop physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are safe and secure contributing to keeping children safe. Toys and resources are clean and in good condition because the childminder cleans and checks them regularly.

Good procedures are in place for the arrival and collection of children and the childminder's clear understanding of minimising risks in the house.

A clear and consistent routine enables the children to develop a sound awareness of the boundaries implemented by the childminder to keep them safe. For example, children know from an early age that they sit at the table to eat. Clear procedures for outings ensure that children are kept safe away from the childminder's home.

The childminder understands her responsibility to protect children from harm and has procedures in place to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care, however some information needs to be brought up to date. Her role in safeguarding children is discussed with parents when they first place a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures she shares her time equitably amongst the children, supporting and encouraging them in their play and learning. She ensures the children receive lots of praise and positive intervention, helping to build on their self-esteem and confidence, consequently children are very well behaved.

There is a broad range of activities and opportunities provided which stimulate the children's interest, promotes their learning and helps their concentration. As a result, children are beginning to make independent choices. Children are actively engaged in conversation and the childminder stimulates the children's interest as she asks open questions. The childminder plans activities in preparation of the children coming home after school and those during the day. They happily play together, enjoying using resources such as play dough, setting out a tea party for the dolls and other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are settled and enjoy a consistent and organised routine that affords them opportunities to be active and relax. Realistic expectations and a consistent approach by the childminder helps the children to learn about right and wrong. As a result, children's behaviour is good. Children are valued and respected as individuals, differences are embraced and each child treated with equal concern. A child record form details children's dietary requirements, medical needs, likes and dislikes, all of which help the childminder provide the appropriate care.

There is a good range of toys and resources that reflect positive images of society, consequently, children are offered opportunities to develop their awareness of different lifestyles, beliefs and traditions. The childminder has cared for children with special needs and disabilities, she demonstrates a strong commitment to provide an inclusive service.

A strong commitment to work in partnership with parents underpins positive relationships. Effective communication including contract books contributes to meeting the individual needs of all children and formal contracts detail business arrangements to ensure the care required is provided.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

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

The childminder is able to show that all adults living at the setting have undergone checks to establish their suitability. The registration certificate is not displayed, however, the attendance register confirms that the provider complies with the conditions of registration. Most of the required documents for the safe and efficient management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children are organised, maintained and stored appropriately. The routine is organised to include, quiet times, active times, meal times and rest. Consequently, children are secure in the childminder's care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection one recommendation was made to ensure that all children's records are kept confidential, in individual children's files and made available to parents. The childminder ensures information is stored appropriately and available to parents.

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 information regarding safeguarding children is kept up to date
- ensure that the certificate of attendance is displayed at all times

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