



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340850
Inspection date	19 January 2007
Inspector	Jane Wakelen
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 two children aged four and 12 years in Strood, near Rochester, Kent. The whole of the 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 two children under five years on a part time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene, such as washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder has good hygiene procedures in place to help protect children from cross infection, such as using disposable changing mats and wiping food preparation areas with antibacterial spray. The childminder has all the relevant documentation to promote children's health and has obtained permission from parents for emergency medical treatment and permission to apply sun cream when applicable.

The childminder helps children learn about healthy eating by offering healthy options such as fruit for snack time. Children are able to make choices about what fruit they would like and confidently approach the childminder if they would like alternative options. Children have plenty to drink and water is always available to promote their good health. Children enjoy their food as they are encouraged to choose what they would like to eat from healthy options available and learn that meal times are social occasions by sitting around the table.

Children have regular opportunities to develop their large physical skills, whilst benefiting from fresh air in the park or garden. They enjoy kicking balls, visiting soft play centres or using large play equipment at local parks promoting their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an environment that is safe and clean and allows plenty of room for them to move around freely. The space is organised to allow children to access different resources, such as the television and computer in one room and the toys in another. This encourages children to make choices and promotes their independence. Children have easy, safe access to toys and resources that are clean, well maintained and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Regular checks ensure that there are no broken items and children take responsibility for alerting the childminder if they notice any toys that do not work or are broken.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of safety issues and measures have been implemented to promote children's safety at all times, such as cupboard locks and socket covers. Children are encouraged to gain an understanding about keeping themselves safe, such as wearing their seat belt in the car, sitting on chairs properly and not running indoors.

The childminder has a good understanding about safeguarding children and has a written policy in place to share with parents. She understands the procedures to follow in line with the area safeguarding children committee and has relevant contact details and information available, in case of any concerns regarding children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play happily and confidently in the childminder's home. They readily approach the childminder for support, such as helping with toileting or to complete a puzzle. She is receptive to their needs and children feel valued because she treats them with respect and as individuals, building good relationships. Children show independence making choices about what to play with from a selection of toys available and move around the home with confidence.

Children enjoy being offered different activities such as playdough, using the cutters and tools, but sometimes wander around, needing some direction from the childminder to promote more meaningful play. The childminder interacts well with the children and encourages them to share and take turns using the different equipment. However, she does not always fully extend children's play to promote their all round development, such as their creativity or mathematical skills.

The childminder understands the importance of offering opportunities for children to develop in all areas, such as large physical play and takes children to local parks and playcentres to use large play equipment. Children have opportunities to socialize with other children at weekly parent and toddler groups, promoting their social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder treats children with respect and obtains all relevant information from parents about their likes and dislikes to ensure their individual needs are met. Children have limited opportunities to develop their understanding about diversity, because of the small range of toys and resources available. The childminder knows the children well and this helps children settle quickly into her home promoting their confidence and self-esteem.

Children behave well when with the childminder. She uses positive strategies to promote good behaviour, such as distraction and offers constant praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour. Children learn to share and take turns with their peers with support from the childminder, who through her calm approach, ensures children have a good role model.

The childminder works in partnership with the parents to support the care of the children and to provide continuity. She keeps parents informed on a daily basis either verbally or through use of a contact book, about the activities their child has been doing and any other relevant information. Parents are given written policies to read which ensures they have a good understanding of the care the childminder offers and are asked to give written permission for different aspects of care, such as travelling in the car and permission to take photographs. This promotes children's welfare and well being.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play in a clean, tidy home where there is plenty of room for them to move around freely, with help and support from the childminder. The childminder has formed good relationships with the children which promotes their confidence and self-esteem. There are good procedures in place to protect children from strangers.

All required paperwork is in place and well maintained. Written policies and procedures provide clear information for parents about the service provided by the childminder and written consents from parents for aspects of care, such as travelling in the car, promote children's welfare. The childminder ensures parents are informed on a daily basis about their child's care and the use of a daily contact book, enables a good two-way flow of information. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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):

- extend play opportunities for children to promote their all round development
- ensure children have resources and opportunities to extend their knowledge and understanding of diversity in society

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