

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY311873
Inspection date 06 June 2007
Inspector Linda Patricia Coccia

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 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged four years and one year in Minster, Kent. The whole 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight, of whom, two are under five. The childminder drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and local childminding group. The family has a pet dog and some guinea pigs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Suitable standards of hygiene are maintained within the provision. The childminder has a written sick child policy covering all the usual childhood illnesses. This is shared with parents in the childminder's written service statement. There are also good procedures in place to help children become aware of personal hygiene issues. Children wash their hands after using the toilet, after messy and garden play and before meals. Children learn about personal hygiene. When changing babies nappies the childminder screens the child with her body from the majority of the room, therefore, ensuring their privacy is respected. Children's health records are well maintained and the childminder has regard to harmful UVA rays and limits the times that the children are allowed to play out in the garden. Children's health is promoted.

Children eat a range of food at snack and meal times, such as, tuna and sweet corn sandwiches and fruit. They drink water and fruit juices. Currently there are no children requiring special diets but the childminder works closely with all parents to ensure individual requirements are met. Children are offered a selection of food which is healthy and nutritious.

Children play in a secure outdoor play area. They have access to a range of suitable large play equipment, such as, slides, swings and trampolines. Indoors there is room in the lounge for children to dance to music and participate in floor play. Children enjoy their physical play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are child friendly, light and airy and give a welcoming atmosphere. Older children can move freely between the lounge and dining room, but toddlers and younger children are more restricted by the use of strategically placed stair gates. The childminder ensures she is always where the younger children are. The older children learn about safety as they have to remember to close the gates after using them. Toys are safe and regularly cleaned. Many are stored appropriately so that children have direct access to them. They are frequently rotated to give variety. Children use toys suitable for their ages.

Children's safety around the childminder's dog has been fully risk assessed and special arrangements have been made. The children have practised the childminder's emergency evacuation plans and she has kept a record of the events. Children have the opportunity to keep themselves safe in an emergency. Children are also transported safely to school and pre-school in the childminder's well maintained vehicle, with appropriate seats in place. Children are kept safe when off the premises.

The childminder has a good attitude in regard to safeguarding children and suitable procedures are in place to help keep them safe from abuse and neglect. Parents are advised of the her role and responsibilities and they know that she will keep records of any concerns, including recording existing injuries. The childminder has appropriate information amongst her paperwork concerning the signs and symptoms of abuse. Children's well being is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are looked after by a childminder who is caring and shows good concern for children. She has lots of interaction with the children and there is plenty of laughter, as well as giving gentle reminders about safety and behaviour. She is always happy to do what the children want but she remains in control through her written routines and activity plans. She acknowledges that sometimes children like to play alone with an activity and encourages them to follow their own pursuits.

Children play happily both indoors and outside. They use plenty of physical play equipment and help the childminder to look after the family guinea pigs. Children love to dress up and are regularly seen to be dressed as Rudolph the reindeer, complete with antlers and Bob the builder. The childminder allows children to go to the shops in their dressing up clothes. Children can remain in character all day if they wish. They play with small world figures and construction toys and have a wide range of craft activities available to them. The childminder has a good understanding of how young children develop. However, she has never received a copy of the Birth to three matters framework so has not been able to have regard to it for babies and younger children. Children have a good relationship with their childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children use toys and equipment which show positive images of race, culture and gender and disability. All children use all toys. For example, boys can play with dolls and pushchairs and girls can be mechanics. The childminder regularly talks to the children about different cultures and races and her activity plans include opportunities to learn more about equality by closely following activities they engage in at playschool. The childminder also has procedures in place to provide care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities although none currently attend. Children learn about the wider world.

There are some good behaviour management strategies in place to help children learn about their behaviour. They follow easily attainable house rules, such as, being nice to each other and saying please and thank you. The childminder has a written behaviour management policy which includes suitable strategies, such as, time out, distraction and discussion with children about unwanted behaviour. Children are encouraged to be helpful and clear away toys when they have finished playing and receive lots of praise and encouragement throughout their stay. Children build good self esteem and play within well defined boundaries.

The childminder works closely with parents and discusses all issues with them regarding the care of their children. Parents are able to access photographs and details of children's activities through the childminder's scrapbooks, which show where children have been and what they have made, examples of which are also stuck in to the book. Children benefit from continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has good procedures in place to ensure persons in contact with children are suitable to do so. All adults in the house have been vetted and their Criminal Record Bureau documents are available to parents. Children are looked after by suitable persons.

The childminder is very well organised and provides an information folder for parents to access. She has written daily plans and routines which are given to and discussed with parents.

Her regulatory paperwork is in place and is well maintained. Her registration certificate is displayed in the entrance area. Children's records are stored appropriately in individual folders, are confidential between her and the child's parents and stored in a lockable box.

The childminder holds the ICP childminding certificate. Her first aid certificate is current until November 2007. She regularly seeks support from the local childminding group and feels able to discuss relevant issues with them. 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):

- obtain a copy of the Birth to three matters framework to gain a greater understanding of how babies and young children develop

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