

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY333848
Inspection date	24 April 2007
Inspector	Annie Williams
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 2006. She lives with her husband, one adult child and one teenager in Sittingbourne, 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 five children 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 a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean environment, because the childminder applies effective cleaning strategies. Children generally learn about personal hygiene through the toileting routine. Less

emphasis is placed on all children washing hands before or after snack and lunch. Careful thought is given to changing times. Consequently, babies' nappies are changed hygienically and their privacy respected. Children learn to make healthy choices in the care of the childminder and confidently ask for fruit such as banana and apples. Babies sleep according to their individual routines but are not able to move freely whilst sleeping as they are strapped in a buggy.

A sick child policy and individual towels contribute to preventing the spread of infection. Medication records are compliant and provide parents with the required information. Accident records are easily accessible and procedures are understood by the childminder. Up-to-date first aid training and parents written permission to enable the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment means that the childminder is able to act in the best interest of children in a medical emergency.

Children enjoy regular drinks especially when it is warm. When they play outside the childminder ensures that children are protected from the hot sun by applying plenty of sun cream and ensuring that the children wear hats. Children receive opportunities for physical play; they visit the park and play in the garden. However, children do not access the garden freely to enable them to run around and 'let off steam'.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is clean and safe. The temperature is monitored to ensure that children are comfortable. For example, there is a thermometer in the conservatory and windows are opened for ventilation if it is too warm.

The premises are safe because the childminder assesses and reduces the risks to children. For example, glass is covered and medicines and sharp objects are made inaccessible to children. The premises are kept locked. This ensures children are unable to leave the house without supervision. Procedures for the arrival and collection are effective. As a result, children are only released into the care of authorised adults. Sleeping babies are checked to ensure that they are safe and a clear understanding of child protection ensures that the childminder is able to safeguard children's welfare.

Toys are clean and safe and organised in easily reached containers. As a result, children are able to access toys independently and safely. There is a written evacuation plan and fire equipment is accessible and maintained appropriately. For example, there is a smoke alarm on each level of the property and a fire blanket is accessible in the cupboard. Therefore, children's safety is promoted in the event of an evacuation.

Outings are safe because children sit in appropriate seating in the car or hold hands out on walks. Parents can be contacted quickly in an emergency when the childminder is on an outing because their contact details are easily accessible. In addition the childminder carries an identification card to inform others of her childminding status.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy in the care of the childminder who is kind and caring in her interactions. Children are provided with a range of activities. They enjoy baking cakes helping them to acquire the skills to share and take turns and engage in simple mathematics through weighing out the

ingredients. Jigsaw puzzles are popular amongst the children; older or more able children are encouraged to help the younger children find the correct pieces and help fit the giant floor puzzles together. Children are supported in their play. For example, the childminder supports them with suggestions as they complete puzzles. Games foster children's social development; for example, children play a game of 'Buckaroo' and concentrate as they place items on the horse and then laugh out loud as the horse bucks and all the items fall to the floor.

Children engage in creative activities such as painting and modelling with dough. They learn to make marks on paper with pencils and crayons to develop an understanding that marks can make meaning. However, the colourings in sheets do not allow children to explore and interpret their own unique perceptions of the world. Babies enjoy exploring a range of brightly coloured toys by shaking, pulling and pushing, but no natural objects are available to stimulate baby's senses and develop their creativity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well behaved in the care of the childminder; they respond positively to the childminder's requests. Children learn how to share and take turns through their play such as working together to complete a large puzzle. They learn about the local and wider world through visits into the local community, such as the park, the zoo and the shops. Books further support children's knowledge and understanding of the differences in our society. Children's personal cultures are successfully acknowledged by the childminder who discovers from parents children's individual needs. For example, children's dietary requirements and medical requirements are recorded.

Parents report that they are happy with the care that the childminder provides. They are informed about the service through written policies and they are aware of the complaints log. However, the childminder is not familiar with the complaints regulation and therefore has not fully informed parents. In addition there are no procedures in place to share inspection reports with parents. Written permission for appropriate aspects of the childminding service and contracts ensures that the childminder provides the required care and works in partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The childminder is able to show that all adults living in her home have undergone checks to establish their suitability. The registration certificate is displayed to inform parents of the conditions related to registration and the attendance register shows that the childminder complies with the conditions of registration. However, the attendance register is completed at the end of the week. Consequently, a daily record is not clear. All the required documentation for the safe and efficient management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children is maintained confidentially and stored securely. The routine is balanced to include times for the children play quietly together, rest, enjoy meals and more active play. As a result, children are secure and settled in the childminder's care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the quality and standards of care was judged as inadequate. As a result, the childminder was required to address seven actions. These were to devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and make sure parents are made aware of it and to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and to keep a written record of medication given to children that is signed by parents. The childminder has produced and implemented a sick child policy to share with parents and now keeps the appropriate medicine records. As a result, outcomes for being healthy are satisfactory. The childminder was also required to assess the risks to children in relation to glass cabinets, medicines and sharp objects, and take action to minimise these. As a result, the childminder assesses and reduces the risks to children. For example, glass is covered and medicines and sharp objects are made inaccessible to children. In addition the childminder was required to develop awareness and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour, taking into account their age and stage of development. The childminder uses positive behaviour management strategies according to children's age and stage of development. Consequently, children are well behaved and developing an understanding of right and wrong. Finally the childminder was required to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint which is in line with current regulation. The childminder has compiled a template for a complaint log and made available Ofsted details to parents but she has not developed a knowledge and understanding of the complaint regulation. Therefore this remains a recommendation from this inspection.

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 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):

- consider providing children with free access to physical play to develop their large muscle skills and allow them to 'let off steam'
- further develop knowledge and understanding of the complaints regulation
- record children's arrival and departure times on a daily basis

- provide more opportunities for babies to explore and investigate natural objects to further promote their creative development.

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