

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 147041
Inspection date 19 June 2007
Inspector Mary Van De Peer

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 1994. She lives with her husband and children in Ashford, Kent. The whole ground floor area of the house is used for minding children. 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. She drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has three cats. The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and also receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has very good hygiene procedures in place for the children to follow, for example, this means that they are aware when they need to wash their hands. Children benefit from appropriate and sensible protection from common infectious illnesses, as the childminder has sound procedures to cover this. The childminder provides parents with a sample menu and guidance regarding her healthy eating policies. All children are encouraged to eat healthily.

Fruit, yoghurts and raw vegetables are available for snacks, with sweet treats usually only at the end of the week. Meals are varied and healthy, with choices from shepherd's pie to rice, pasta and tuna. Drinks are provided regularly to ensure children are not thirsty. Children are learning to recognise some of the changes in their body, for example when they get tired. Children are able to sleep or rest if they want to. Children have free access to the garden. They get plenty of fresh air. There is a wide range of equipment and resources for children to play with, both for indoors and outside, including dressing up and role play. Consequently, their physical development is being promoted very well. The childminder takes children to local places of interest, such as wildlife animal parks and castles, this help further develop their social skills and local knowledge.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are able to play freely in the downstairs area of the childminder's home. The toilets are also located in this area. The back garden is easily accessible and older children can run in and out as they wish. The house is very safe and child-friendly so that children can move around independently. Stacking boxes mean children are able to select activities from a range of suitable toys and equipment which meet safety standards. The environment is secure and suitable for children to play in. The childminder has the required procedures and paperwork in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder keeps her first aid certificate up dated. She also has a very good knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. The childminder has a written emergency evacuation procedure but has not practised it with the children, however, the older ones are aware of the main exits from the house.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children have a close, warm and caring relationship with the childminder. Their individual needs are catered for by the availability of age-appropriate, interesting and good quality toys and activities. The majority of these resources are stored at children's height so they can make choices in their play. Children are confident and relate well to each other. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home. The childminder talks to them all the time and they all discuss what they are doing. When they are preparing the vegetables for dinner, the children show a knowledge of why vegetables are good for us. They are achieving and progressing well. The childminder is very professional and has a good knowledge and understanding of how children develop and what they need to keep them stimulated and interested in their play. Children also experience a sense of their local environment through visits to local places and the childminder encourages them to observe what is going on around them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are provided with positive images of the diversities in our society. This helps ensure that their individual and cultural needs are met. The childminder shows all the children respect and values their contributions to situations. The children are developing good self-esteem and confidence. Their behaviour is good and they are very polite, for example they ask if they can get down from the table when they have finished eating. The children also respond very well to guidance and instruction from the childminder. The childminder has worked hard to develop

a good partnership with the parents. There is an excellent range of written procedures made available for parents. The childminder keeps files with additional relevant information about her childminder service, for example training certificates. She ensures she discusses children's backgrounds with parents. The childminder also provides them with regular verbal feedback about their children's progress and achievements. As a result children receive consistency in their care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has been caring for children for over twenty years. She is a qualified nursery nurse. The childminder is also pro-active in attending any child-care course she feels is appropriate and relevant. She keeps her first aid certificate up to date. Children benefit from receiving good quality and informed care. All relevant persons in the household have been vetted. The childminder is very experienced. She has developed good communication with parents and discusses the individual care for their children with them. The childminder has a contract with parents. This helps in the provision of continuity of care for all the children. The childminder has all the required documentation and paperwork in place, including written procedures and an attendance register which is marked daily. Child record forms are completed and written consents from parents are obtained. Children's records are stored securely and confidentially. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has followed the previous recommendations to improve her childminding provision.

The first recommendation was for the childminder to include details in the complaints procedure of the Regulator. There is now a very clear and concise complaints procedure in place. It includes all relevant information regarding the current Regulation. There is also a complaints book in place. These positive steps help to further protect children's welfare.

A second recommendation was for the childminder to make sure that children have access to resources and play provision that reflect positive images of disability. The childminder has purchased a variety of resources which reflect disabilities, including small world figures and books. Children are able to play with toys which reflect positive images of disabilities.

The final recommendation was for the childminder to make sure that the record of accidents kept includes minor injuries to children. The accident book the childminder keeps is of the required format and includes all injuries, even minor ones, children sustain whilst in her care. Children's well-being is promoted appropriately.

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):

- consider practising an emergency evacuation with the minded children

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