



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125819
Inspection date	27 May 2005
Inspector	Susan Jennifer Scott

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The Childminder was registered in 1989.

She lives with her teenage daughter in the village of Sutton at Hone close to the towns of Dartford and Swanley. The childminder uses the playroom and kitchen for minding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children and when minding with an assistant there can be six children under the age of five years. She is

currently minding five children under five years with her assistant and three children after school.

The childminder drives to local schools and pre schools. The childminder does not have any pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children are able to rest or sleep to suit their individual needs which promotes their well being. However, they sleep in their car seats or buggies in the play room and do not have an opportunity to stretch out when they sleep, although this does enable them to fall asleep in a familiar facility. Children, and especially babies, have limited access to fresh air and lack consistent opportunities for regular exercise or vigorous physical play as they are only able to play outside during warm weather. Children have some access to the garden and are able to develop their physical skills such as pedalling and throwing although this is not consistently provided for them. The non-ambient babies watch this play from a baby walker positioned in the doorway.

Children are not encouraged to learn about healthy routines through tasks such as fetching or disposing of tissues to wipe their nose themselves, or by being encouraged to participate in hand washing before snack time. There is no discussion about the benefit of appropriate hygiene routines so children have few opportunities to understand the importance of good hygiene. There is no reliable system to ensure toys and equipment are cleaned regularly, so that children are not protected from the possible spread of infection because the resources and equipment they use are not regularly cleaned.

The children can eat breakfast and lunch as well as a snack of biscuits mid morning. They do not have an afternoon meal or snack. Children are offered meals at lunchtime and snacks which accord with parental wishes or those which are supplied by parents; this ensures that children are offered foods which they are used to and caters for their preferences. Babies have the opportunity for individual attention when being fed, although this is limited by the number of other babies and children present who cannot all be looked after by the assistant at the same time.

Children independently help themselves to a drink of squash or water from their own beakers which are stored on the kitchen counter. Babies are offered their own bottles of drink during the day so that they do not get thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to relax and play safely in a secure and suitable environment, they are clearly aware of areas which they are not given access to and only use designated areas. They have good access to a large play room with a variety of safe

toys and resources. The non ambient babies are kept safe in a baby walker and there are high chairs with harnesses which are used to keep them safe. Several appropriate safety measures are in place, such as a gate at the front door, and the rear garden, to which they have good access, is secure.

Children are taken on trips to the local school and pre-school belted into a large, road-worthy vehicle. However, there is no documentation available to ensure they could receive emergency treatment or advice or for parents to inspect and ensure that they are covered by appropriate insurance when transported.

Children benefit from good independent access to a range of toys and resources, and the childminder ensures their safety through supervision most of the time. However, there are times when some risks have not been safeguarded, such as the kitchen cupboards containing cleaning fluids which are secured with an elastic band, and children independently access this room to get their drinks.

Babies sleep in their own buggy or car seat which keeps them secure, although other children can access them while they sleep as there is no separated sleeping area. The children can sit or lay on the large sofa provided in the play room but this is high for the youngest to climb onto, and there is no suitable small table or chairs for them all to sit at, for instance, at snack time.

The childminder is aware of child protection issues and ensures children are only collected by adults she been informed about, or she uses a password system.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is assisted by another childminder and this enables children's needs to be met by two adults, so that while the babies are fed, another adult can ensure other children receive attention. This does allow the childminder to work in a flexible manner and provide for the needs of individuals to some extent, although the play is not planned or organised to enable effective progress and ensure all children are well occupied.

The only toys and resources provided are those suited for use by babies or toddlers so there is nothing with small pieces which may be dangerous to them. This means that although children enjoy using resources which appeal to a range of ages, these do not fully promote appropriate challenges and stimulation or develop the abilities and skills of older and more able children. All the toys are freely accessible to all the children, although babies have to rely on the childminder providing toys that they can reach if they are not mobile. This results in children and babies not fully exploring or investigating the full range of play materials as they are not presented in an attractive or stimulating manner; for instance, the children playing in the play houses in the garden are not encouraged to incorporate the use of imaginative play props such as tea sets or dolls through the good organisation of resources.

Children enjoy access to a selection of toys suitable for toddlers and pre-school children in the garden, such as push along and sit and ride toys, a small slide and

two play houses. However, they are only able to develop a limited understanding of the local community through local trips as the childminder does not take them out, other than on trips to the local school and pre-school when she delivers and collects older children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder works in partnership with parents by getting to know the families and children through a series of settling in visits so that she can become familiar with the routines and preferences of the children, especially the babies. This supports the childminder in delivering care that is appropriate to each child's individual needs. However, there are no documents which ensure that the complete range of information is recorded to ensure the safe care of each child.

The childminder uses the different collection times when parents call to inform them of any activities and achievements of their children. Information is also shared about the progress and home experiences of the children so that the childminder is aware of any issues that may affect their care. The childminder is aware of the special needs of children and works closely with parents to provide appropriate support.

The children behave well, responding positively to the childminder's expectations which she makes clear to them, for instance, when children want to play with the same resources she provides an alternative toy for one child, although she does not explain to them how to manage this process for themselves and therefore promote their independent learning. The childminder is patient and supportive and as a result the children feel secure and settled in her care.

There are limited resources which reflect diversity and which enable children to develop a balanced view of the wider community and children are not taken on local trips to enable them to develop an understanding of their community.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder does not ensure that procedures cover all the required information; for example, records of children's details are not available and have not been treated as confidential. The required checks and documentation to ensure all children's safety are not available; such as the consent to transport children in a vehicle.

The childminder has not completed first aid training to ensure that she can provide appropriate care in a paediatric emergency. Much of the information to support children's care and provide a safe and well managed environment for them is absent. This means that the needs of all children are not met.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, the childminder has not completed any of the recommendations or actions.

The childminder has received a Criminal Record Bureau check to complete for herself and another young adult living in the home; these have not been completed. There are no records available to provide information or checks on the assistant.

The childminder has not yet completed first aid paediatric training, although she has booked a place on a course in the near future. Therefore, no first aid certificate is available.

Many of the resources and toys are grubby and there is no reliable system to ensure they are regularly cleaned to ensure the children have access to hygienic resources.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints since the last inspection

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that details of all adults who assist in the care of children are recorded and available for inspection
- ensure all the required documentation for the safe and effective care of children is available for inspection at all times
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- implement a system to ensure that resources and equipment are clean and hygienic
- put a procedure in place to ensure that all persons living or working in the home hold a current CRB check

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk