

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284458
Inspection date	19 June 2007
Inspector	Beth Kingsland
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 has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and 10 in Whitstable, Kent. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children on a rota basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children receive a nutritious and balanced diet, which is varied to meet their individual needs. They are encouraged to make independent food choices, for example, young children are beginning to feed themselves and make decisions about their likes and dislikes. Children are regularly offered a range of drinks throughout the day to ensure they remain hydrated.

Children are beginning to learn about the importance of good personal hygiene routines. They wash their hands before meal times and independently select tissues when required. Procedures for changing nappies afford children their privacy and dignity and are completed hygienically and safely.

Children are encouraged to practise good personal hygiene routines as individual towels and soap are provided. Their health is maintained because the childminder has suitable first aid training and records accidents appropriately, sharing details of the incident effectively with parents. Children's health is assured in an emergency situation because parents provide written details about their medical history, special requirements, and give written consent for emergency medical treatment to be given. The childminder keeps records of the medication she gives to children. However, these do not provide sufficient information of the permissions provided by parents. For example, only initials are obtained to indicate that prior permission is obtained.

Children begin to learn the importance of exercise as part of maintaining a healthy style. They use equipment, such as climbing apparatus, in the childminder's garden and play with bats and balls developing their physical skills. The childminder takes children on regular walks, visits parks and the local beach.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is promoted because the childminder has a secure understanding of safety issues and takes steps to minimise potential risks to children. She conducts formal risk assessments, which include the testing of smoke alarms, and maintains accurate records of fire drills, which are completed by the children to ensure they have a clear understanding. Plug socket covers are in place, stair gates and locks are used to make areas of the home inaccessible to children and the garden is securely fenced. Consequently, children are able to move freely around the childminder's home in safety.

Equipment and play provisions are clean and well maintained and suitable for children aged under eight years. Children are protected and safeguarded from harm because the childminder understands her role with regards to protecting children in her care. Accurate records are maintained highlighting times children arrive and leave her home. She has effective systems in place to record injuries children arrive with, obtaining explanations and signatures from parents, and knows how to implement child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are offered a range of experiences during the time they spend with the childminder. She adapts activities to ensure all children are fully included. Children are provided with opportunities to cook, play a wide range of number and educational games and complete jigsaw puzzles.

There are many resources available to promote children's imaginative skills, for example, through an extensive range of role-play equipment and dressing up clothes. Children are able to explore creativity using a range of media and materials because the childminder has a wonderful array of resources and materials enabling them to do so.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals. The childminder ensures she obtains detailed information from parents enabling her to fully understand their individual needs. She has a good understanding of equal opportunities and ensures this is reflected throughout her practice. Children begin to gain an understanding of diversity through discussion and the use of resources. Planned activities help children learn about special events and festivals.

The childminder promotes a fully inclusive environment and welcomes children of any age, race and ability. She works in close partnership with parents recognising the importance of establishing and maintaining secure, friendly relationships. Effective induction procedures help to ensure children are settled and develop a sense of security. The childminder uses a variety of ways to inform parents about her practice and their child's day. These include daily discussion, information presented in a portfolio and the implementation of daily journals for each child.

Children are encouraged to behave in a positive manner and the childminder recognises the importance of positive reinforcement and continual praise. She promotes good behaviour, for example, through the use of house rules. This enables children to recognise the boundaries and the childminder talks through their actions helping them to understand the effect their unwanted behaviour has on others.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder fully understands the requirements of the National Standards and ensures these are implemented effectively in practice. She keeps accurate and well-maintained documentation, over and above what is required, and is extremely effective in the way she shares information with parents. Written policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to include new requirements, for example, the introduction of the complaints log. Consequently, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder has completed suitable training and recognises her strengths and areas for development. She has a positive attitude to increasing her knowledge and skills and is keen to pursue any training opportunities available, for example, by attending regular workshops.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- ensure all medication records are completed accurately

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