



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	156716
Inspection date	12 September 2005
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 2001. She lives with her husband and one child aged over 8 years in Murston, Sittingbourne. 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 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 6 children aged between one and 8 years, some on a part-time basis. She sometimes works with another childminder which alters the number of children under 5 she may look after at any one time. The childminder

drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home with a welcoming environment, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating or handling food and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross-contamination. Children are also encouraged to take themselves to the toilet and become more independent in self-care.

Children are offered a varied, healthy diet. The childminder works closely with parents to provide good quality fresh food, snacks and drinks and which cater for individual children's needs. Children are able to easily access water and a range of juices and squashes throughout the day. Children learn to eat healthily.

Children benefit from regular physical exercise. There is a good range of physical play equipment available in the garden. They can also participate in larger group games by using the grassed area at the front of the house where running and bike riding is more suitable. Children enjoy their physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Toys are clean and safe for children to use and they can help to clean and care for them. Children learn to respect their toys. Children learn how to use equipment e.g. cutting with scissors, and how to use them safely. The childminder constantly reminds them about safety and being careful around others. Children become aware of safety for themselves and others.

The children are also kept safe when out in the car. They have their own seats, and use of safety equipment. Parents' contact numbers are available to the childminder however, she does not carry any relevant permissions or childminding identification. The children are aware of the childminder's well thought out emergency evacuation procedures which they practise every month. Children are able to keep themselves safe in emergency situations. Children are also kept safe by the childminder's well thought out child protection procedures which ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home. They achieve well because the childminder is caring, professional and has a good understanding of how young children develop. They learn about shape, texture and colour through the range of toys and activities provided. The childminder displays examples of children's work in the conservatory therefore children feel their work is valued. Children also experience a sense of their local community through attending a variety of toddler groups and day trips with the childminder. A photographic record is kept of outings and then shared with parents so that they can see what their children have been enjoying.

The children enjoy the childminder's company. They smile and laugh and interact well with her. They give and receive lots of hugs and cuddles. They get on well with each other and are considerate. Children have a loving relationship with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children benefit from the childminder's open attitude towards equal opportunities and special needs. They use toys and books showing positive images of equality every time they attend. Children begin to understand about each other's differences.

Children receive lots of praise for their achievements and learn to care for one another e.g. asking for the potty or sharing puzzle pieces so they can all play. The childminder has effective behaviour management strategies which are agreed and shared with parents and compliment strategies they use at home. The childminder is enthusiastic about giving praise and not dwelling too much on negative behaviour. Children play freely within effective boundaries and develop good self-esteem.

Parents report that the children receive very good care and support from the childminder, as do they and other members of their families. Parents receive a good insight into how their children develop through the daily verbal exchanges about the children's wellbeing and achievements as well as reports from their own children. Children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed an Introducing Childcare Practice (ICP) course and has completed a paediatric first aid course. Since her last inspection she has also attended a Local Authority Child Protection course. Her registration document is displayed in a portfolio but this will be moved to open display in a frame. All adults in the household have been vetted.

The childminder has good levels of paperwork completed on each child. Her attendance register is marked daily and all relevant paperwork is shared with parents. She gives verbal information to each parent about their child, at the end of the day.

The childminder has completed a service contract with each parent which is regularly reviewed. Children's records are confidential and stored appropriately. 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

On the 1st November 2004, a concern was raised about a child, who the provider is contracted to care for, being left in the care of another childminder. This relates to National Standard 6 - Safety. An unannounced visit was carried out by an inspector and the provider advised us that she had parental permission to leave the child in the other childminder's care. The provider remains suitable for registration.

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):

- carry relevant information on child minded children, when off the premises with them.

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