

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278121
Inspection date	18 December 2007
Inspector	Freeda Wildon
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children over eight years in Chatham, 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 seven children under eight on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm clean environment where they learn about good hygiene practices. For example, children wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Paper towels and effective nappy changing procedures further prevent the spread of infection. Current

first aid training, a sick child policy, accident and medicine records are all in place to help the childminder act in the best interest of children if they have an accident or become ill.

The childminder offers the children healthy snacks and talks to the children about healthy eating. Water is readily available to the children to keep their bodies hydrated. As a result, children are developing a healthy lifestyle. The childminder organises outings to the park and in the local community, where there is large play equipment. Consequently children receive plenty of opportunities to develop physical skills and contribute to their health and development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The home is warm and welcoming, and the childminder undertakes informal risk assessments to ensure that her home is safe for children. However, not all dangerous objects are inaccessible to children. Effective procedures for the safe arrival and collection of children ensures that they are only collected by authorised adults, for example, photographs and passwords are required. The childminder also applies appropriate safety measures on outings, she teaches the children about road safety. As a result, children know how to keep themselves safe away from the setting.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues. She has attended training and is aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. She knows who to contact if she has any concerns. This safeguards children's welfare. There is a written evacuation plan, fire blanket, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to contribute to children's safety if they need to evacuate the home. Formal practice of fire safety has been established to keep children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled because they are cared for in an environment that allows them to experience a wide selection of activities. Children under three explore and experiment through a range of well-planned activities that are appropriate for their stage of development. Children attending after school are able to relax, join in activities and do their homework if they wish to do so. Children benefit from outings, for example, they visit the beach and parks.

Children respond positively to the childminder because she is kind and caring in her interactions. They are familiar with their surroundings and independently make choices about the activities they become involved in. The childminder helps children acquire new knowledge and skills by showing them what to do; for example, putting on their shoes and coats. A good selection of books and visits to the library means that children are developing a love of books. Young children are learning to count; they count the number of stairs as they go upstairs. They enjoy pretend play; for example, they dress up and pretend to be hairdressers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content because the childminder helps children have a sense of belonging. For example, photographs are displayed to welcome children and there is a place for their personal belongings. A behaviour management policy is discussed and shared with parents. Strategies, such as, distraction and redirection help children understand about boundaries. These strategies take children's age and stage of development into consideration.

Older children's behaviour is effectively managed by reward using a 'star chart'. Praise and encouragement help children develop a positive self-image. Children are learning to take turns and share.

Children have access to a range of activities and resources to promote a view of the world and to increase their awareness of diversity and understanding of others. For example, the childminder provides books, puppets, world maps and visits within the local community. As yet there are few resources that reflect disabilities. Children are building positive relationships because they get opportunities to make new friends at social groups.

Contracts are in place recording business arrangements and parents' permissions are obtained. As a result, there is consistency between home and the childminder. Effective communication from the childminder informs parents of the care that their children receive. A range of policies is available to parents, the complaints policy reflects the recent changes but as yet a log is not in place to record any complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are secure and happy in the childminder's home because the childminder's routine includes quiet times, meal times, outings and play times. The childminder organises her home so that there are dedicated areas for children to play. The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of the national standards and is keen to develop her knowledge. She has attended several short courses in childcare and is current doing a diploma in home-based childcare.

The registration certificate is displayed for parents. All the required documentation for the safe and effective management of the setting and to promote the welfare and care of children is well maintained and stored securely. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection three recommendations were made. They were to obtain appropriate insurance and written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle; further develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has successfully addressed all of the above, resulting in good outcomes for children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 that all dangerous objects are inaccessible to children
- prepare a log to record complaints from parents.

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