

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125222
Inspection date	07 August 2007
Inspector	Melissa Turner
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 satisfactory. 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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged 16 and 14 in Halstead, Sevenoaks, 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding three children, two of whom are under eight. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a satisfactory awareness of hygiene procedures, for example, they wash their hands and dry them with their own hand towels after toileting, which the childminder supports. This helps to avoid the spread of infection. Children enjoy healthy home cooked meals, such as Spaghetti Bolognese or fish and vegetables. They are usually offered a variety of snacks, but during the inspection they eat a less healthy snack of a chocolate biscuit. Their

drinks are readily set out for them to ensure they can help themselves and remain hydrated. Children enjoy opportunities for physical play, these include playing in the garden, going with the childminder on dog walks, and trips to feed the ducks. These aspects help promote positive enjoyment of physical activity. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and most required medical documentation. These aspects help ensure she is equipped to deal with accidents and illness. However, currently there is no permission for emergency treatment in place.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home environment which is safe and suitable for children, and provides them with plenty of space in which to play. They have access to a suitable range of age appropriate toys and resources, which are stored in a toy box. These are reported to be rotated on a regular basis. The home is extremely clean and welcoming. The childminder promotes and maintains safety with children appropriately. For example, she uses stair gates at the stairs when young children are present, and teaches children not to climb on the furniture. A safe home environment is maintained, however, the fire blanket is not currently wall mounted in the kitchen. The childminder has suitable systems in place for ensuring children's safety when playing in the garden and when on outings. The childminder has a generally satisfactory awareness of child protection issues which helps her to safeguard children in her care, however, in some areas this knowledge is limited. The childminder has, however, booked to attend a course in child protection this September to further develop her knowledge.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care and regularly approach her for cuddles and reassurance which she freely offers. Children choose from a reasonable range of toys in a toy box in the dining area, and bring what they have chosen in to the lounge where they play happily. They thoroughly enjoy playing with the farm house and farm animals, talking to the childminder about the animals and the noises they make. The childminder supports them, sits at their level and interacts with them. She encourages them to learn about colours and numbers as they play, asking them questions and encouraging them to think for themselves. The childminder plans a variety of outings and activities including toddler groups, meeting with other childminder's and local walks. Children appear settled and secure in the childminder's care. They snuggle in to her as she reads them stories; children delight and giggle with anticipation at what will happen next. Children appear to be happy and confident. As a result, they are able to enjoy and achieve in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated as individuals and are comforted and reassured as their parents leave. Their needs are met and they are cared for appropriately in a welcoming home environment, helping them feel settled and well supported. They have access to a range of resources, however, few reflect the differences in society, limiting their ability to learn about diversity. Children learn about good behaviour. The childminder uses praise with them as they play and encourages them to share and be kind to one another. Children are supported and encouraged as they play, helping to avoid behavioural issues. Consequently, children are able to build their self-esteem and confidence. There are appropriate methods used to work with parents. They are offered

daily verbal feedback about their children's care. This helps ensure children's needs can be met and parents are able to receive information about their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder works from a welcoming home environment which meets children's needs. She has most documentation in place, with the exception of some permissions from parents. In addition the childminder has not completed the necessary paperwork relating to her daughter who turned 16 in April; this is a legal requirement and has not been met. The childminder has completed the required first aid course but has not recently attended any other courses to update her knowledge and skills since she registered. However, she hopes to commence these in the future. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was set an action to ensure she has local contact numbers relating to child protection concerns. These have now been obtained along with a range of other relevant child protection documentation.

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 satisfactory. 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 permission for emergency treatment consent is in place
- ensure the fire blanket is appropriately wall mounted
- further develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
- improve the range of resources to promote diversity
- ensure required documentation and police checks are completed for anyone over the age of 16 in the household

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