

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125906
Inspection date	28 February 2008
Inspector	Virginia Cooper
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 1998. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Northfleet, Kent. The whole ground floor and an upstairs toilet of the childminder's house are 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 on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has two cats and a rabbit.

The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder looks after children in a warm environment which is clean and well maintained. They enjoy a close relationship with the childminder and are very comfortable and 'at home'.

Effective systems are implemented within the home to help prevent the transmission of communicable diseases, for example, surfaces are regularly cleaned with anti-bacterial spray, children wash and dry their hands with wet wipes and paper towels to prevent cross infection. The childminder teaches children how to wipe their nose and dispose of the tissues, helping children learn the significance of good hygiene. The childminder has effective procedures in place to prevent cross infection when nappy changing.

Children learn about good hygiene practice through the daily routine, for example, they wash their hands after playing outside, visiting the toilet, before eating and after petting the rabbit. The childminder talks to children about germs, explaining that they will get poorly if they do not wash their hands. Therefore, they understand the importance of hand washing.

Children eat sitting at the table and are beginning to learn about good table manners and food hygiene, for example, they understand that washing their hands before eating helps to prevent germs spreading.

Rest and sleep times are part of the daily programme, the childminder supervises them closely while they sleep to ensure they are safe.

The childminder does not care for children who are contagious ensuring others are not at risk of cross-infection. Children who become poorly whilst with the childminder are comforted, and made comfortable, until their parents are able to collect them. The childminder ensures she has written permission before she administers any medication, the dose and time is recorded to ensure parents are well informed and their children are not given anything that is unsuitable.

She has record books available to record accidents, a little more detail is required to ensure all the facts are included, for example, remembering to write left or right when this is relevant.

The childminder is booked on a course to renew her first aid qualification. She feels confident she has sufficient knowledge to administer first aid to children in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children regularly play in the fresh air, they play in the garden or go to the park, this ensures they get plenty of physical exercise.

The childminder has agreed with parents that they provide a packed lunch for their children. She is satisfied that they receive food in adequate quantities for their needs and that it is nutritious and properly prepared. She provides healthy snacks throughout the day and teaches the children which foods are healthiest and which should be eaten in moderation. They undertake other projects about food, learning where different foods come from, for example, they know milk is from cows and eggs are from hens. Children are provided with regular drinks to ensure children do not become dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder uses the available space well, children understand where to play, where they can relax and undertake quieter activities and where to undertake art and craft activities. The carefully prepared environment helps children to enjoy different play experiences.

Children choose what they want to play with from a good range of well-maintained toys, these are checked regularly to ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child.

The childminder regularly carries out a risk assessment of the premises. The potential hazards and risks are identified and safety equipment is in place to prevent accidents. She carries out a visual check of the premises each day to maintain the safety standards. Children are reminded how to behave to keep themselves safe and what the consequences may be if they are too boisterous. This is beginning to help them understand about taking personal responsibility for their own safety. The childminder has considered the children's safety in the event of a fire. There are smoke alarms providing an early alert in a fire and an evacuation plan is written.

The childminder understands she has a duty to safeguard children from harm. She has good knowledge of the different forms of abuse and feels confident she would recognise if a child needs protection. She knows who to contact if she ever has concerns about a child in her care and has relevant phone numbers to hand.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good range of resources that provide interesting play opportunities for children. Children are very comfortable with the childminder, they are happy and enjoy themselves. This close relationship enables children to communicate easily, the childminder knows the children well enough that she can understand what they need and want even when their speech is not entirely clear. She is familiar with all the funny little words they use and can therefore meet their needs easily.

The childminder plans a few special activities each week. Children look forward to these activities, this week they are making ceramic hand prints for Mother's Day. They have lots of opportunities to be creative. A favourite activity is to draw around themselves and they regularly play with small world toys, and dress up to role play. Children take an interest in nature, examining bugs in the garden, feeding and identifying birds and helping to care for the pet rabbit. The childminder ensures children have a good level of involvement. She listens to what they want to do and facilitates their play. They hold interesting conversations all the time, extending children's knowledge and vocabulary. The childminder is very fair about how she shares her attention between the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality of opportunity and has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children are treated with respect and made to feel good about themselves.

The childminder has experience of caring for children with particular needs, she has a positive and 'can do' attitude. The childminder discusses each child's individual needs with parents and takes account of any special needs they have to ensure the child receives an appropriate service.

Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement and some basic ground rules that are consistently maintained by the childminder. She adopts appropriate strategies, according to the age and stage of development, to help children understand right from wrong, for example, distraction with young children, calm intervention, good explanations, and being a good role model. She uses positive language and expresses to the children when they have been good so they understand which behaviour to repeat.

The childminder works closely with parents, she writes a daily contact sheet and discusses fully what children have done and any progress their child has made at collection time. Parents are encouraged to ring at any time if they need re-assurance that their child is settled. The childminder displays her registration certificate, resulting in parents knowing the conditions of her registration. The childminder understands she is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request and has prepared a log to do this if the situation ever occurs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All adults in the household are checked to help establish they are suitable to care for children. The childminder's first aid qualification has expired, however, she is booked on a course to update her knowledge. She considers she has sufficient knowledge to enable her to administer first aid to children in the event of an accident or emergency.

The registration certificate is displayed during childminding hours. This ensures parents are clear about the conditions of registration. The childminder's public liability insurance certificate is available for parents to see, providing them with peace of mind.

The daily programme is flexible; children choose freely what they want to play with from a variety of age appropriate toys that keep them amused. The childminder provides activities for them after discussing with them what they want to do. The childminder chats with the children as they play encouraging their communication skills. They have opportunities to play with adult support and to play independently. The childminder takes advantage of good weather to take the children out in the local community. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder keeps all the documentation that relates to her childminding business together and confidentially. The accident book is generally well kept and parents sign the entries ensuring they know what has happened to their child. Occasionally, however, the entries lack sufficient detail to ensure what has happened can be remembered accurately in years to come. She keeps all the required records that relate to the children and obtains parental permission where necessary, consequently, parents are kept informed.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was made relating to Standard 5. The childminder was asked to assess current toys and activities for positive images of disability and increase the range if necessary. She has not specifically purchased new resources that reflect disability positively, however, her attitude towards diversity is positive. She has purchased new resources that reflect our multi-cultural society positively and the children watch some favourite television programmes that reflect other cultures and disability positively.

The changes made improve the service for children.

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):

- remember when completing accident records to provide enough information, in particular, remember to write left and right when appropriate

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