

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY284437 |
| Inspection date | 05 July 2007 |
| Inspector | Annie Williams |
| 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. They live in a house in a residential area on the outskirts of Faversham, Kent close to shops and parks, schools and pre-schools. 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 four children at one time, and is currently minding one child under five years. The family has a guinea pig.

The childminder has a nursery nursing qualification, and attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment which is tidy so that children can play freely and safely. Children are introduced to the importance of a healthy lifestyle through the organisation

of the childminding service; they wash their hands regularly, eat healthy meals and take plenty of exercise. Drinks are readily accessible to the children to quench their thirst and keep their bodies hydrated. Effective procedures are in place to protect children from the effects of the sun which include playing indoors at really hot times of the day.

A sick child policy ensures that children are protected from infection. Parent's permission is obtained to enable the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Accident and medicine procedures are clear and compliant and provide parents with all the necessary information to continue care at home and contribute to children's continuing good health.

Regular walks to the park and town provide children with exercise. Additionally children play in the garden and attend local groups such as the gym where they engage in physical exercise that provides them with opportunities to develop large muscle skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is welcoming to parents and children; posters are displayed and the toys are prepared for children to play. Toys and resources are clean, in good condition and promote children's development. The premises are safe and secure so that children are unable to leave the setting unsupervised and intruders cannot enter. Procedures for the arrival and collection of children mean that children are collected by authorised adults only. A range of policies are in place to contribute to children's safety, for example, a lost child policy and an uncollected child policy. A written evacuation plan is in place and although not recorded fire drills are carried out periodically. Fire detection equipment is accessible and maintained appropriately, for example, smoke alarms and a fire blanket. These positive actions contribute to children's safety.

An excellent knowledge and understanding of the recommendations for sleeping babies contributes to their protection whilst sleeping. Recent child protection training means that the childminder has an extremely good knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children's welfare. Additionally a written policy supports the childminder's service and is shared with and signed by parents.

Parents' written permission is obtained to enable the childminder to take children on outings and transporting them in a vehicle. Outings are carefully planned to keep children safe; the childminder takes a first aid kit, children's details, spare clothes, snacks and a mobile phone. As yet, the childminder has not prepared procedures to alert others to her childminding status in the event of an accident.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the care of the childminder. They have a range of toys and resources available to them to enable them to self-select. Children particularly enjoy pretend play. For example, they play with miniature toys and prepare a picnic in the garden with pretend food, a wooden cooker and a patterned cloth. Together the children and the childminder play; they construct models from the large bricks such as an aeroplane and play picnics talking about the quantity and names of the food. Children are supported by the childminder who talks and listens to the children and allows them to play independently. Children are confident and happily approach the childminder to seek assistance.

Children sometimes paint, glue and draw to develop their creativity. All the toys are attractive brightly coloured plastic toys that the children really enjoy. As yet, resources that enable children to use all their senses to explore and investigate are not fully developed and easily accessible to the children. Outdoor play is particularly popular amongst the children; they delight in playing on the equipment such as the trampoline. They experience new concepts like balancing on skates and learn about safety, for example, not climbing on the climbing frame in the skates.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

A written settling in policy is in place; children are settled and confident in the care of the childminder who is kind and caring in her interactions. Children are well behaved in response to the childminder's praise and encouragement. They are clearly secure and have formed positive relationships. All children are welcomed into the care of the childminder. Children's personal cultures are successfully acknowledged by the childminder who finds out about the children and their families from parents. Resources and posters that reflect positive images of differences support children's learning of our diverse society and the childminder explores different festivals with the children such as Chinese New Year. Children develop a knowledge and understanding of the world from the many opportunities the childminder provides; they take care of the plants in the garden such as the tomato and cucumber plants and help feed the guinea pig 'Rascal'. They learn about the local and wider world through many outings, for example, to the park, the duck pond, the zoo, the animal park and the shops.

Partnership with parents is excellent. They are extremely well informed of the childminder's service and their child's care. All parents 'sign up' to the comprehensive policies that underpin the childminders service. Additionally contracts secure business arrangements and parent's permission for all aspects of the service means that the childminder can provide children with the required care. Babies parents receive extra documentation so that they have a written account of their babies sleeping and eating patterns. With parent's permission the childminder takes photographs of the children and e-mails or gives them to parents so that they can see the range of experiences their children are involved in.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is able to show that all adults living in her home have undergone checks to establish their suitability. She is able to show that parents are informed of conditions related to registration through the display of her certificate. The attendance register confirms compliance with the conditions of registrations. All the required documentation for the safe and efficient management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children is well maintained and stored securely for confidentiality. In addition a range of written policies underpin the service that the childminder provides.

The childminder holds a qualification in childcare, therefore, has a good knowledge and understanding of child development to support children in her care. Up-to-date first aid training is planned to be completed shortly. The daily routine is well balanced so that children are secure and settled. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection two recommendations were made. These were for the childminder to ensure that parents know how to complain about the childminding service and to request their written permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Both recommendations have been implemented successfully. As a result, outcomes for children are positive.

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):

- further develop emergency procedures for outings
- develop the range of natural objects for children to explore and investigate

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