

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY347515
Inspection date 16 July 2007
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 2007. She lives with her husband and three school aged children in Faversham, 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 five children at any one time, including two children under one year and is currently minding two children under five. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and local childminding group. The family have two hamsters and some fish. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Good standards of hygiene are maintained by the childminder. The floors are cleaned with antibacterial cleaners, as are all other work surfaces. Children use their own drinking cups. The childminder has a well written sick child policy which parents adhere to. Parents are given their

own copies of the childminder's policies and procedures. Children are protected from cross infection as they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The childminder provides individual flannels and towels for each child. Children learn about personal hygiene.

Good procedures are in place to promote children's health. The childminder keeps accurate accident and medication records and requires parents to give written permission for emergency medical treatment if ever it were necessary. The childminder also ensures that she has children's current information with her when she leaves the premises. Children's records are well maintained.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children eat food that is healthy and nutritious. Children are offered drinks of water or sugar free squash. The parents of babies provide baby milk and infant food snacks. The childminder is able to provide additional snacks of fresh fruit and finger vegetables. Children are required to eat at the dining table to ensure that they have some social time during the day. Children eat healthily.

Children are provided with a secure outdoor play space. They get involved in activities which help develop their bodies, such as using the trampoline and the slides. They have use of ride on toys and smaller equipment such as balls and hoops. They enjoy using the sand in the sandpit which the childminder keeps hygienically clean. Babies are taken on regular daily walks to get fresh air. Children enjoy physical activity.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a suitable premises, with a welcoming atmosphere. They play in a large lounge/dining room which is well decorated with bright warm colours. The childminder provides a travel cot for sleeping downstairs or children can choose to rest on the sofa. The childminder has appropriate safety equipment in place suitable for the ages of the children attending. For example, safety gates are at the kitchen door and the bottom of the stairs. A well stocked first aid box is easily accessible in the kitchen. Children are able to move around freely and independently.

The toys available are suitable for the ages of children attending. They are clean and well maintained, especially those being used by babies, and stored in plastic storage boxes making them easily accessible to the children. Children use equipment which is well maintained. Children are transported in a seven seat vehicle with appropriate child safety car seats and booster seats. The childminder obtains written permission from parents to take children in the car and on local outings. Children are kept safe when in the car.

There are good procedures in place to protect children in emergencies. The childminder has devised an emergency evacuation procedure and has practised it with an older child. However, so far babies have not been included. Fire safety equipment, such as a fire blanket is sited in the kitchen. Smoke alarms are regularly tested. Overall, children have the opportunity to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

Good procedures are in place to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. The childminder has produced some well written information for parents which makes it quite clear that the childminder has a duty to protect children and the procedures she would use. The childminder is very aware of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and has a wealth of

information to consult if the need ever arose. Parents are aware that the childminder has an existing injuries record book. There are also good departure policies in place to ensure children are collected by suitable persons. Children's well being is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is caring and shows good concern for children. She ensures they are reaching their developmental milestones by providing a range of activities and toys to stimulate them and help them to learn. They regularly attend sessions at the local toddler club and enjoy physical movement at 'Bounce and rhyme'. At home, the children have their minds stimulated by reading books and discovering different sounds. For example, babies love rattles and musical toys. The childminder has referred to the Birth to three matters framework to ensure she provides appropriate resources and activities. She provides written information for parents detailing outing venues and the toys available for their children to play with. Children are involved in a variety of activities.

Children have a good relationship with their childminder. They chuckle and laugh with her as they play. Babies have lots of physical contact such as cuddles and being carried around. They are very happy as they sit on the floor and use toys with the childminder. She encourages children to develop their language skills as she talks to them and clearly articulates words and speech. Babies use lots of baby babble. The childminder investigates lots of different art and craft activities on the internet and is looking forward to the time when the babies can take more advantage of these. Babies enjoy care and attention.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children use a range of toys showing positive images of equality every time they attend. For example, there are suitable puzzles showing people from different racial groups and play food from different areas of the world. The childminder regularly uses the library to borrow books with different religious and cultural content. Children mix with a variety of different children whilst visiting different groups. Therefore, children learn about the wider world. There are suitable procedures in the childminder's written equal opportunities policy to cater for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. However, no such children currently attend. Children's individual needs can be met.

The childminder has a well considered written behaviour management policy. She discusses children's behaviour with their parents and between them they decide on the strategies to be used. The childminder mainly uses distraction with the babies and younger children. They receive plenty of praise and encouragement. Children build good self esteem.

Parents report that they get on very well with the childminder. Written references from them use words to describe the childminder such as enthusiastic, kind, safety conscious, and busy. One parent states that she loves to see the interaction between the childminder and the children and the childminder is very good at encouraging learning through the activities. Parents have access to the childminder's portfolio which contains lots of information including her confidentiality policy. The childminder also has a comprehensive complaints procedure. Parents receive daily verbal updates each day about their child's progress. Children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder displays her registration document. All adults in the household have been vetted and parents are able to see completed Criminal Record Bureau disclosure forms. The childminder has completed an Introducing Childcare Practice (ICP) course and has completed a paediatric first aid course. The childminder is very organised and has all regulatory paperwork in place. Children's attendance arrival and departure times are recorded. The childminder has a visitors book to record visitors who come into contact with the children. Children's records are well maintained 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

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):

- review the emergency evacuation procedure to concentrate on the evacuation of children under two

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