



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126210
Inspection date	08 November 2005
Inspector	Melissa Tickner
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 2001. She lives with her 2 children aged 6 and 8 in Pembury, 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 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children under 5 part-time, and 3 children over 5 after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has 3 cats, and a rabbit.

The childminder is a member of National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children are beginning to develop a satisfactory awareness of being healthy, through hand washing after toileting and use of individual hand towels. However, they are not encouraged to wash their hands before eating a snack, which may expose them to germs. This may mean they are not developing a full awareness of being healthy. They are cared for in a clean and healthy environment through the childminder's use of antibacterial spray and being proactive about removing food that has fallen on the floor.

Children are developing reasonably healthy eating habits as they are offered dried fruit such as raisins and bread sticks for snacks. The childminder provides cooked and cold meals for children and aims to promote healthy eating through this, working with children to offer them choices. This ensures children are well nourished and developing an understanding of healthy eating. They have drinks made up in cups, which are regularly topped up and offered throughout the morning. This ensures they remain hydrated.

Children benefit from a good range of outdoor physical play opportunities. They enjoy playing in the garden on good weather and trips to the park and local walks. They also enjoy regular indoor activities through trips to locations such as 'run around' and the hop farm. They delight in dressing up in 'belly dancing skirts' and moving to music and talk about their bodies warming up as they dance. As a result, they are developing a good sense of enjoyment of physical play and are beginning to develop an understanding that physical exercise contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe home environment. They play in a well organised conservatory dedicated for their use, which is kept well ventilated. However low level glass is accessible, which presents a hazard to children. They have access to a good range of toys, many of which are organised to encourage them to make choices. The childminder promotes and maintains safety with children appropriately. This happens in practice, for example, they practice a fire drill to help them know what to do in the event of a fire, and the childminder ensures children do not play with toys that are too small for them. This helps teach children to take care of themselves and keep them safe whilst in her care.

The childminder has suitable systems in place for ensuring children's safety when on outings, such as use of buggies and reins, and carrying contact details with her. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of child protection issues, however in some areas; she has only a basic awareness. This hampers her ability to safeguard

children as well as she possibly can.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled, and well supported in their play. They enjoy a good range of activities, in which they show enthusiasm and enjoyment. For example, they delight in playing with the dolls, looking at books together and dancing and moving to music. Children are encouraged to choose their activities and this is promoted through a reasonable range of accessible resources. For example, children choose the dolls they want to play with and the clothes they are going to dress them in. As a result, children are enjoying a good range of play opportunities and are able to enjoy and achieve throughout all their activities.

Children are offered close support and encouragement by the childminder throughout their play, and she sits with them at their level interacting with them. They are also given the opportunity to play independently. She is able to encourage, support them, and promote their confidence - which children show through going to the childminder for cuddles and chatting to her. The childminder supports and encourages the children in their activities closely. All these aspects ensure children feel valued, secure and make progress whilst in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated and well cared for as individuals. Their needs are met well and they are cared for appropriately. Younger children are able to interact well with the childminder as she uses and understands basic signs to help them communicate. These aspects help children feel settled and well supported. They have access to a reasonable range of resources and experience cultural differences, for example doing activities related to Chinese New Year. Some resources are available which reflect the differences in society, this helps children begin to learn about diversity.

Children are well behaved. They are encouraged to share and take turns, and their behaviour is managed positively with a caring and kind manner, and regular use of praise. Children respond well to the methods used which shows they are feeling secure and valued. Children are beginning to learn about good behaviour and this helps contribute to building their self-esteem and confidence.

There are appropriate methods used to work with parents - they are offered daily verbal feedback and a daily two-way contact book 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 well organised home, which meets children's needs appropriately. She has a clear and detailed set of documentation in place, which includes a range of policies and service statement. She has not attended any courses recently, but keeps her knowledge updated through liaising with professionals such as the Health Visitor and other childminders. She hopes to update her training in the future if possible. Most required documentation, including a first aid certificate is in place, with the exception of an accurately completed register. The childminder maintains an organised approach to her minding. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in April 2003, recommendations were set relating to ensuring Environmental Health Officer recommendations are followed, to ensure that parents are aware when safety features are removed, they are aware of the special needs policy and that she updates her knowledge on Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

The childminder states that her cats are fed out of the way of children, and parents are always informed that she has cats. Cat food is stored appropriately. This helps ensure appropriate hygiene procedures are followed regarding the care of animals. The childminder indicates that she works with parents closely, and that they are always kept informed about changes around her home, which includes the removal of safety features such as stair gates, as appropriate. The childminder shares all of her policies and procedures when parents first inquire about her childminding and these are also available should parents wish to refer to them. These aspects ensure parents are worked with in partnership. The childminder has not updated her knowledge of child protection issues and this remains an area requiring development.

An action was set regarding seeking advice about the administration of medicines. Prior permission is now sought and all medication administration is accurately signed and recorded. This ensures relevant medical paperwork is in place and appropriately used.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- improve procedures for hand hygiene
- ensure low level glass is safe or inaccessible
- develop knowledge and awareness of child protection issues
- ensure the register is accurately completed and records children's time of arrival and departure.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk