

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126787
Inspection date	27 March 2008
Inspector	Clare Stone
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?

This childminder has been registered since 1999. She lives with her husband and three children who are of school age. They live in a house in Eastchurch, Kent. The house is situated within walking distance of shops, schools and parks. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. At the time of the inspection there were four children on roll.

The family has one dog. The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment. Individual towels and wipes are provided and children wash their hands before eating. Parents provide the children with their meals throughout the day which they eat at the table or in a booster seat. The childminder gives children snacks which are nutritious, such as raisins, cheese and yoghurts. This encourages

the children to develop healthy eating habits. Drinks are freely available and younger children have their own cups with lids which are easily accessible. The childminder consults with parents gathering all relevant information regarding diet and medical history. The childminder does not mind children if they are unwell, therefore protecting the children in her care from cross infection. The children benefit from regular visits to the park, swimming and toddler group. This enables children to build on their confidence and physical skills. The baby has a warm relationship with the childminder and looks to her for support. The childminder knows the children well and is responsive to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming, allowing children to feel secure and build on their confidence. The risk of accidental injury to children is minimised by the childminder's regular visual risk assessments. The childminder has clear systems in place to make sure the children are safe on outings, such as asking the children to hold her hand, and discusses the dangers of the road. There is plenty of space for children to move around freely, allowing them to make their own choices. Resources and equipment are checked regularly and replaced if damaged, preventing the children from becoming injured. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures and the possible signs of abuse. However, this is to be revisited to be really clear on all areas.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive and settle well at the childminder's house. They make themselves at home and feel comfortable in their surroundings. They have access to a broad range of resources and the childminder keeps a folder on the children's achievements. Children are independent and choose what they want to play with and the childminder is aware of changing or extending an activity to enhance the children's play. At the time of the inspection the children enjoyed playing with a garage and dinosaurs. They played nicely together, shared and took turns. Children develop a healthy interest in books and enjoy stories. Childminder reads to children and asks questions to develop children's language. There is space to play and children have access to softer seating to rest and relax if they are tired. Children have access to a large garden which has lots of different equipment to help extend the children's physical skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder treats all of the children with respect and as individuals. This helps them feel good about themselves and builds on their self esteem. The children have a wide variety of resources that promote equality of opportunity and diversity in the community. This helps children see difference as a positive influence in their lives. Children's behaviour is good, this is reflective of the childminder's understanding to provide good quality activities. The childminder also uses praise to reinforce good behaviour. The childminder feels it is important to work in partnership with parents in all areas of their children's development. This ensures continuity of care. Although there are no children on roll with learning difficulties, the childminder has good knowledge on how she can support and assist parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well-organised environment. The childminder has activities prepared and is ready for children when they arrive. This routine helps children feel secure and settled. All relevant documents are in place, kept confidential and are readily available to parents. The childminder is keen to update her knowledge in this area and attends regular childcare training. This helps the childminder provide good quality care. The childminder uses her time effectively to ensure the children have her support and guidance.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the following recommendations were made:

- 1) Develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The childminder has completed some work in this area. However, this remains a recommendation.
- 2) Ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has extended the activities she provides and the resources to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
- 3) Maintain the record of attendance in line with current guidance. This is now in place.
- 4) Make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. This is now in place.
- 5) Obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle. This is now in place.

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 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):

- increase knowledge in child protection procedures and possible signs of abuse.

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