

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125213
Inspection date	03 October 2007
Inspector	Beth Kingsland
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 1999. She lives with her husband and two school age children in Canterbury, 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five on a rota basis. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler and childminding groups.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network but is not currently in receipt of funding for early education for three and four-year-olds.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in an environment that contributes effectively to their good health. Children have access to an enclosed garden and they regularly visit groups and play centres,

which provide them with a variety of experiences, for example, climbing and sliding. The childminder makes good use of the Birth to three matters framework. Children's emotional wellbeing is extended through activities that allow them to express and communicate their feelings freely, for example, young children responding to questions through hand movements and vocal sounds. They are encouraged to gain increasing control of their own bodies and receive good support from the childminder.

Children receive a nutritious and balanced diet, which is varied to meet their individual needs. They are encouraged to make independent food choices, for example, young children are beginning to feed themselves and make decisions about their likes and dislikes. Children are regularly offered a range of drinks throughout the day.

Children's health is well maintained because the childminder knows how to deal with accidents appropriately and implements effective procedures to ensure information is recorded and shared with parents. Their health is assured in an emergency situation as written details are obtained from parents relating to their medical history and parental consent is obtained to seek emergency medical treatment.

Children are beginning to learn about the importance of good personal hygiene routines. They wash their hands before meal times and independently select tissues when required. Procedures for changing nappies afford children their privacy and dignity and are completed hygienically and safely. Although children sleep safely, their health is not fully ensured as they sleep in a buggy without protective bedding.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children stay safe because the childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and ensures risks and hazards are minimised within her home. Stair gates fitted across the entrance to the kitchen and stairs, prevent children from accessing these areas unsupervised. Dangerous substances are inaccessible to children and their safety is assured when playing in the garden. This area is safe and enclosed ensuring children can play safely. Consequently, children benefit because they are able to move freely and safely around the childminder's home inside and out. They have access to a suitable range of play provision and equipment, most of which can be accessed independently. Suitable procedures are in place to ensure the equipment and resources are clean, safe and well maintained, which contributes to ensuring children's safety.

Children are protected from potential harm through the childminder's competent knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She has a good understanding of how to implement local safeguarding procedures. This helps to promote children's safety and assure their well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit because the childminder has a very good understanding about how young children learn. She has a good knowledge of the Foundation Stage Curriculum and Birth to three matters framework, and uses this to help plan a range of activities and experiences suitable for the ages of children attending. Consequently, children enjoy the time they spend in the childminder's care, develop new skills and enhance their learning. They benefit from selecting their own resources, playing an active role in their learning. Children build with a range of

construction materials, complete jigsaw puzzles and enjoy playing games with their peers. Interaction between the childminder and children is extremely positive, and they snuggle up to share stories together. Children learn new vocabulary and talk about the pictures in the book, because the childminder is extremely effective in the way she questions them and uses play to help them develop.

Children visit many social groups where they receive opportunities to express their imagination and explore creativity using a range of media and materials. For example, they learn to mix different coloured paints, play with sand and water, and experiment with paint using different techniques. Children benefit from planned activities with the childminder, where clear learning intentions are identified. They thoroughly enjoy the wide range of experiences they receive during the time spent in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and treated as individuals and the childminder promotes a fully inclusive environment. They develop a strong sense of self assurance and begin to learn about diversity and the world around them. The childminder is effective in the way she uses everyday situations and play opportunities, to talk to children about differences and similarities between themselves and others. She uses resources, the local environment, special events and cultural festivals to help children learn about diversity. This enables children to increase their awareness of the local area and the wider world and to find out about a range of customs and traditions.

Children benefit enormously because the childminder establishes extremely secure partnerships with their parents recognising the importance of working together. She shares detailed information about the service she provides and gives daily informal feedback about their day. Parents very much value the service she provides and speak extremely highly of the childminder. This is evident through the wonderful feedback provided in numerous references and statements included in her portfolio. Although the parents have access to a complaints policy, this has not been adapted to reflect the correct contact details.

Children gain increasing self-assurance through a strong relationship with the childminder. Their views and beliefs are valued and appreciated. They are encouraged to persevere and make personal choices. This results in children who are well behaved, helpful and tolerant of others.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from clear routines and a well organised environment. They are supported in a warm and caring home, which supports their growing social confidence allowing them to be valued and appreciated.

The childminder has adopted clear policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Although the childminder keeps clear records of medication and of accidents, these have not been organised to ensure confidentiality.

The childminder is well organised and shares information effectively with parents. She has developed a comprehensive portfolio, which includes certificates and qualifications, written policies and procedures and aims of the service she provides. Children benefit because the childminder plans her day according to the individual children she cares for. She has a very

good knowledge of their individual needs, interests and abilities and uses this to help guide her planning. The childminder recognises her strengths and continually evaluates her own performance identifying areas for development. She attends regular training opportunities to enhance her skills and knowledge, which impacts on the experiences she provides for children. Consequently, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that the glass panels in the greenhouse are safe or inaccessible and make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. The greenhouse has now been removed. Although the childminder produced a complaints policy after the last inspection, this has not been developed to ensure parents are aware of new contact details.

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 the policy for complaints to allow parents to be aware of the procedures to follow
- ensure children are protected from the spread of infection while they sleep

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