

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126514
Inspection date	26 March 2008
Inspector	Mary Van De Peer

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 1999. She lives in Snodland, Kent. The whole ground floor area of the house is used for minding children. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding three children. The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local Parent and Toddler Group. The childminder has a pet cat, budgerigar and fish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sick child policy which makes it clear to parents that she is unable to care for children who are ill. This practice helps prevent the spread of infectious illnesses amongst the children being minded. Personal hygiene procedures are given good priority and appropriate hand-washing routines are undertaken by the children. They have the use of liquid soap and their own hand towel to further prevent the risk of cross infection. Although the childminder's first aid certificate has recently expired, she has attended relevant first aid training

over the years of her childminder registration. She is attending a new course shortly and with her well-stocked first aid kit, feels she can still treat children's minor injuries effectively. The childminder has all the required procedures to ensure information on accidents, incidents and medication administration is recorded correctly. Parents sign all entries in connection with their own child. Children are able to sleep or rest when they need to. The childminder takes the children out regularly every week, for example, they walk to local toddler groups. A child conveys how much they enjoyed seeing the fire engines. For outings further away, they travel on public transport. The children have plenty of fresh air and exercise. The childminder provides meals, snacks and drinks for children, if required and as arranged with parents. Her menus include salad, fruit, pasta and vegetables. Children are learning about healthy eating and living.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and relaxed in the childminder's care. Safety measures in place, such as socket covers, cupboard locks and stair gates, allow children to move around safely in the downstairs area of the childminder's house. A downstairs bathroom helps further promote children's independence. Children benefit from an attractive range of age appropriate, safe and suitable toys and equipment, which they can access easily. The garden area is fully enclosed with a designated play area. Children are unable to leave the premises unaccompanied. On outings the childminder expects children to follow her road safety guidance, so they know how to walk on public paths safely. There is an emergency evacuation procedure which the childminder makes sure she practises with all children, they are learning how to keep themselves safe. The childminder has an adequate knowledge and understanding of her role in the protection of children. She makes sure parents are aware of this by sharing her child protection and safe collection of children policies with them.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has devised a flexible routine to meet the children's daily needs. A range of activities and resources, including construction and mark-making is available for all the children to choose from. They are able to use their creativity and imagination skills to draw or construct things they observe when out walking and on outings. For example, they recently saw a fire engine on a trip and this has featured in Lego models built and pictures drawn by the children. Dressing-up and role play resources help children feel secure and comfortable, by re-creating every day situations. The children enjoy stories being read to them as well as looking at books on their own. Children have well organised opportunities to learn about their local environment and places of interest further afield. They also regularly visit toddler groups and participate in activities outside the home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an appropriate understanding of equal opportunities and recognises the need to encourage children to treat everyone with respect. She has a few resources promoting equality and reflecting positive images from today's society. The childminder is positive about the care children with learning difficulties or disabilities need. She recognises the need to liaise with parents to help with the consistency of care. Children's behaviour is good and is managed firmly but calmly by the childminder. She praises the children's achievements and this reinforces

acceptable behaviour. The childminder has built up supportive and communicative relationships with parents. She provides them with information about her childminding service. However, the childminder does not ask parents to complete a child record form for her to have clear and easily accessible details on each child. She discusses the children's progress and the time spent with her, with their parents, on a daily basis. A daily contact book is used with babies. These procedures help to ensure children receive continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's planning and well organised play space. The childminder knows several other childminders and feels well supported by them. They share up to date child care information and this helps the childminder to review and improve the care she provides. The Ofsted registration certificate is displayed and public liability insurance is in place. Most documentation and record-keeping is well maintained and stored securely. Appropriate and regular communication with the parents helps ensure children receive continuity and consistency of care. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder had four recommendations raised at her last inspection.

The first one was for the childminder to ensure all contracts are fully completed by parents and parents sign, giving permission to take children on outings. The childminder has new contracts with all parents. She ensures they contain consent for her to take children on outings and use transportation. Children's safety when out and about is given good priority.

The second recommendation was for the childminder to ensure all dangerous substances and medicines are made inaccessible to children. She has ensured child proof catches and locks are fitted on all cupboards containing dangerous items. Children's well-being and safety is protected appropriately.

A third one was to ensure all policy statements are up dated to give clear information to parents about the service provided and the responsibilities towards the children being minded. The childminder has reviewed, updated and printed all the policies and procedures she has and makes sure they are available for parents to read and have a copy of if they want one. This helps with the continuity of care for children.

The final recommendation was to ensure the childminder's public liability insurance certificate is made available to parents. Although this insurance certificate is not on permanent display, the childminder makes sure she shows it to all parents. This helps to reassure them of the additional measures in place to protect their children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 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):

- ensure all relevant information on each child is obtained from parents and is easily accessible if required
- ensure first aid training is kept up to date, to help promote children's continued well-being

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