

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	402624
Inspection date	26 February 2008
Inspector	Joanne Wade Barnett

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 2001. She lives with her husband and two school age children in Orpington, Kent. The whole of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding two children both of whom attend on a full-time basis.

The childminder walks to a local school to take and collect children. She attends a local parent and toddler group and regularly takes the children to the local parks.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted in premises that are maintained to a good standard of hygiene and cleanliness. Effective systems are implemented within the home, to help minimise the transmission of communicable diseases. This includes cleaning the changing mat after use and the careful disposal of nappies to reduce the risk of cross infection. From an early age, babies begin to learn the importance of good personal hygiene, because the childminder wipes their hands before and after eating and wipes their noses.

Children's dietary requirements are met and the childminder adheres to easily accessible information relating to allergies and preferences. Children begin to learn the importance of keeping their bodies hydrated, because they have their own drinking vessels, which are easily accessible and refreshed regularly.

Babies acquire new physical skills inside the childminder's home, as they learn to crawl, sit, pull to stand and they are able to cruise around the furniture. Children enjoy regular opportunities to play outside, helping them to acquire a healthy attitude to physical exercise and develop their large muscle movements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are safe and secure, contributing to keeping children safe. Toys and resources are clean and in good condition because the childminder cleans and checks them regularly. Effective procedures for the arrival and collection of children and the childminder's clear understanding of child protection contribute to keeping children safe.

A clear and consistent routine enables the children to develop a sound awareness of the boundaries implemented by the childminder to keep them safe; for example, children know from an early age that they sit at the table to eat. Good routines and gentle reminders not to touch help children learn about safety within the setting. Clear procedures for outings ensure that children are kept safe whilst away from the childminder's home.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is attentive and caring in her approach and the children are content and settled in her care. A broad and balanced range of resources enable children to play freely and develop their creativity and imagination. Younger children clearly enjoy exploring the range of brightly coloured plastic toys, which the childminder provides. Together with the childminder, they explore the train track and the way the trains move along, shaking and pressing different buttons in curiosity, sharing smiles and laughter as they engage in their play.

Praise, encouragement and positive intervention, help to build children's self-esteem and confidence. As a result, younger children are beginning to make independent choices and develop their concentration. Regular visits out into the community help children learn about the environment, for example trips to the farm and walks to the duck pond.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are content in the care of the childminder. They respond positively to the praise and encouragement given by the childminder and are well behaved. Strategies for managing behaviour are positive. For example, removing a child from the situation and talking about behaviour; making it clear that it is the behaviour that is unacceptable and not the child.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and the childminder endeavours to implement individual routines and share her time amongst the children. A child record form details children's dietary requirements, medical needs, likes and dislikes, all of which help the childminder provide the appropriate care. There is a wide range of books and resources that reflect positive images of society; consequently, children receive some opportunities to develop their awareness of different lifestyles, beliefs and traditions.

A strong commitment to work in partnership with parents underpins positive relationships. Effective communication both verbally and with contact books contributes to meeting the individual needs of all children, to ensure the care required is provided.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The organisation of the setting is satisfactory and contributes to positive outcomes for children. The childminder attends training whenever she can. This ensures she is able to provide appropriate care for the children she looks after.

The certificate of registration is not displayed, however the attendance register confirms that the childminder complies with the conditions of her registration. The routine is organised to include quiet times, active times and meal times. As a result, children are secure in the childminder's care. Most of the required documentation for the safe and efficient management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children is maintained correctly. Although, accident/incident records lack detail and on occasion inconsistent.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder had two recommendations. To ensure upstairs windows can be unlocked quickly in an emergency and written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment. The childminder has ensured the keys are available to unlock windows and all consent letters are 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 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):

- ensure all accidents/incidents are recorded in accordance with the National Standards
- ensure the registration certificate is displayed at all times

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