

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	510753
Inspection date	24 October 2007
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 1998. She lives with her husband and two children in Aylesford, near Maidstone in 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding four children. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family has one pet dog. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She also receives some support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has established appropriate personal care routines for the children. She ensures she discusses her procedure, if children are unwell, with parents. The childminder does not look after ill children, so the risk of cross infection is minimised. Medication administration is recorded and parents sign any entries. The childminder gives parents written details of the times she gave any medication. Children's welfare is given adequate priority. The childminder has attended

a recognised first aid course and shows parents her certificate. She has a well-stocked first aid kit. This means that children can be treated effectively if they hurt themselves. Confidentiality is not fully observed when information regarding each child is recorded. Children have daily access to outdoor play. The garden has play equipment to help children to develop skills in climbing and balancing. Children get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Indoors children can assemble puzzles, practise their mark-making skills and build constructions with inter-locking and stacking bricks. Children are able to further develop both large and fine motor skills. When they need to, the children can rest or sleep safely. The childminder provides children with nutritious snacks and meals. Examples of foods offered for children to eat are fruit, pasta and vegetables. Children are learning about eating and living healthily.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children have free access to the downstairs play areas and back garden of the childminder's home. The house is safe, for example, a stair gate and fireguard are used. Also, the family dog is very friendly, but can be kept separately from children if required. Resources are kept at children's height. This means children can move around and play freely and independently. They can select activities from a range of toys and equipment which are checked regularly for hygiene and breakages. The environment is consistently secure and suitable for children to play in. The childminder has the required procedures and paperwork in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. However, she has not practised her emergency evacuation procedures with children. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures and feels confident about what she would do if she had concerns about a child in her care. Children's safety and welfare are given good priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. Their individual requirements are catered for by the use of age-appropriate, good quality toys and activities. The majority of these resources are stored at children's height so they can make choices in their play. Children are confident, relate well to each other and socialise with other children through visits to local toddler groups. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home. They are achieving well because the childminder is caring, professional and has a good understanding of how young children develop.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are developing good self-esteem and confidence. Their play resources include several positive images of the diversities in our society, for example small world figures and books. This helps to meet children's individual and cultural needs. The childminder shows the children respect and listens to what they have to say. Their behaviour is good and they respond well to guidance from the childminder. The partnership the childminder has built up with parents is fine. She has cared for some of the children since they were babies. There are no written policies and procedures available for parents. However, the childminder talks to parents about how she runs her service. She also ensures she discusses children's backgrounds with parents. The childminder also provides them with regular verbal feedback about their children's achievements and progress. These actions allow her to provide appropriate care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder's Ofsted registration certificate is displayed for parents and visitors to view. She has been caring for children for about ten years and is very experienced. The childminder holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. All adults in the household have been appropriately vetted. She has developed good communication channels with parents and discusses the individual care for their children with them. The childminder uses service contracts with parents. This helps in the provision of continuity of care for all the children. The childminder has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child, although some additional written consents from parents are missing. The attendance register is marked daily and all relevant paperwork is shared with parents. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder received four recommendations at last inspection.

The first one was for her to draw up permission for administration of medication to minded children.

Action taken: Parents provide all medication their children require. Although, direct written permission is not obtained at the outset. All medication administered is recorded appropriately and parents sign all entries. They also receive their own copy of this information to refer to at home. Children's well-being is protected.

A second recommendation was for the childminder to ensure children cannot access the water in the pond and water-but.

Action taken: The pond has been covered adequately. The water-but has also had a lid fitted. Children cannot access water unsupervised.

The third one was for the childminder to expand knowledge of equal opportunities.

Action taken: Small world figures and books reflecting positive images of today's diverse society are available for children to play with. The childminder also has accessed various websites and obtained books containing relevant information on equal opportunities within child care. Children benefit from her increased knowledge and understanding.

The final recommendation was to update information on child protection.

Action taken: The childminder has not yet attended a child protection information or training day. However, she has liaised with her colleagues at her local childminding group, discussing current, local child protection procedures. She has also obtained up to date literature and guidance to ensure she is able to protect children in her care.

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 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 is recorded in accident book and confidentiality is observed in all record keeping procedures
- ensure children are aware of the procedure to follow in the event of an emergency
- review ways in which knowledge and understanding of current childcare practices can be improved

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