

Inspection report for early years provision

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Unique Reference Number | EY249064 |
| Inspection date | 16 October 2007 |
| Inspector | Janette Mary White |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Welling, 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding three. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have access to drinks at all times and they are supported in making healthy choices regarding the food they eat. For example, children help to prepare their lunch as they place the ham on a plate and count the pieces of tomatoes, cucumber, olives and carrot sticks. They talk about their favourite foods and the childminder works together with the parents to provide children with nutritious choices. The childminder has not ensured that parents have given written permission to seek emergency treatment and advice on behalf of their child. She

maintains effective records on accidents, medication and existing injuries and parents have signed to acknowledge the details. First aid equipment is easily accessible and taken on outings or when taking and collecting children from pre-school. Children are provided with a good range of experiences which promotes their understanding and knowledge of health issues. Routine self help skills encourage children to become independent. They are provided with different coloured towels for hand washing. They are beginning to know the importance of having clean hands before eating and after using the toilet. For example, the childminder clearly explains that washing hands with soap and water makes sure there are no germs. A changing mat and gloves are used when changing children's nappies. Children's physical skills are encouraged and they benefit from playing in the fresh air. They are developing confidence as they attempt challenges for themselves or ask for help. Children have lots of opportunities to join in the activities because the childminder makes frequent use of the Birth to three matters framework.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are aware of how to evacuate the premises in an emergency. There are effective procedures to ensure the welfare and safety of the children. These include a written escape plan which is discussed and practised with the children. However, this procedure does not fully promote children's early recognition or self help skills. Children are safe and well cared for because the childminder ensures risks are competently assessed and reduced accordingly. For example, a visual risk assessment is completed each morning before children arrive. This makes sure all hazards are reduced and the toys and equipment are safe. The parents have given written permission for children to be transported. The child protection policy meets the Local Safeguarding Children Board requirements. The childminder has a secure understanding of the procedure and what agencies to contact on the child's behalf. Children are cared for in a stimulating environment, they have space to move around and make independent choices within safe boundaries. Young children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe because the childminder takes time to talk to them and successfully helps them understand why certain procedures are necessary. For example why it is important to stop, look both ways to make sure no traffic is coming before crossing the road.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are able to make connections between real life scenarios as they enthusiastically play with large construction bricks. For example, they build a slide like the one in the park. Children's independence is developing as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities. However, some toys stored in boxes do not help children's independent choice. These boxes are not labelled with pictures and words. The childminder uses Birth to three matters framework in order to promote younger children's development and learning. She has a competent understanding of the range of activities and the level of support needed for the different stages of children's development. Children are confident and settle well at the childminder's house. They enjoy time when they can be active or relax in accordance with their interests and needs. They socialise with other children through regular attendance at pre-school groups. Children enjoy exploring a wide range of activities which contributes to their creativity, such as dancing and moving to music, playing instruments, painting and baking. Each day children help to complete a weather board. They discuss the day of the week, the date and what the weather is like outside. The childminder praises children for their efforts and takes time to talk to them

about what they are doing, such as what they did at pre-school. Children show great pride in their achievements. For example, as they build a tower and name the colour sequence of the blocks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a secure understanding of her complaints policy and has a system to record complaints. She is less familiar with some aspects of the complaints process. There is now a system to maintain a complaints summary for parents. The childminder actively affirms and acknowledges the importance of treating each child with equal respect and concern through the equal opportunity policy. However, information to enable appropriate care is not recorded, although this is discussed with parents. Children actively play with a broad range of resources to promote their understanding of the wider world and to increase an awareness of diversity. Children initiate communication and offer their own ideas; they develop a sense of belonging as they make themselves at home. Children are only released into the care of authorised adults. There is no system for emergencies. The childminder has a general awareness of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Children are well behaved and understand the behavioural boundaries set by the childminder, such as eating lunch at a table and saying please and thank you.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and at ease with the childminder and their surroundings. They are comfortable and settled within a well organised environment. The childminder has recently completed a first aid course in order to ensure appropriate first aid treatment is given to children. An extensive range of up to date written information is displayed and available to ensure parents are continually informed about the provision. All records are easily accessible and ready for the inspection. The childminder is generally aware that records must be kept however, she is unsure of how long some of these records must be retained. She has all the relevant checks. The registration certificate is displayed and the register has details of the hours of attendance. There is now a record of when visitors are present. Children's welfare and development are competently promoted and she provides a broad range of policies and procedures. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection highlighted two recommendations to; ensure children have access to a range of activities and resources which promotes equality of opportunity and develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

Since the last inspection; the childminder has extended the range of resources and activities reflecting equal opportunities. In addition, she has attended a child protection course and obtained literature on safeguarding children.

As a result, children are able to play with resources and access activities, which reflect equality of opportunity. Parents have a clearer understanding of child protection procedures in relation to their child's welfare.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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