

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284959
Inspection date	19 November 2007
Inspector	Freeda Wildon
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 2004. She lives with her two children aged five years and seven years in Walderslade, Kent. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house, an upstairs toilet and a bedroom are 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 four children aged under eight years. The childminder walks and drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local care and toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy home. Children are beginning to learn about the importance of good personal routines. The childminder encourages them to wash hands before eating and after using the toilet. However, this is not consistent as they do not always wash

their hands before eating. Parents provide food for their children which is stored appropriately in the fridge. Children make healthy choices from a selection of fruit at snack time. Drinks are available to keep their bodies hydrated.

Children's physical health is well maintained because the childminder knows how to deal with accidents appropriately and implement effective procedures to ensure information is recorded and shared with parents. Prior written consent is obtained from parents for emergency medical treatment or advice to enable the childminder to act according to parents' wishes in an emergency.

Children get frequent opportunities to enjoy physical exercise and plenty of fresh air. For example, they attend a local toddlers' group where they make good use of large play equipment to develop their large muscle skills. Babies are gaining control of their bodies as they pull themselves up and cruise around the furniture.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are secure and safe because the childminder undertakes informal daily risk assessment. The play areas are organised so that children can move around freely and safely. Childminder ensures that the toys and equipment are clean and safe for children by doing regular checks and cleaning the toys as necessary. Consequently, children play safely. Effective procedures are in place for outings, for example, the childminder takes her details and the children's details out with her to cover emergencies. She teaches the children about safety when they are away from the home, for example, holding hands.

There is a written evacuation plan, carbon monoxide detector, smoke alarms and a fire blanket to contribute to children's safety. As yet formal practise of fire safety has not been established so that all children know how to leave the home safely. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She is aware of her responsibilities regarding allegations against her and her family.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the childminder's home. They are confident and secure in her care and readily make themselves 'at home'. Children experience a varied range of activities within the home and outside. They benefit from regular outings to, for example, Surestart children centre, childcare groups and to the park. As a result, they are forming good relationships with other children and adults. Children respond positively to the childminder because she is kind and caring in her interactions.

Children enjoy music and movement because they attend regular group sessions. In the childminder's home they dance to musical toys and show delight. The childminder helps children acquire new knowledge and skills by showing them what to do. For example, she helps them with puzzles. A good selection of books and visits to the library means that children are developing a love of books. Young children are learning colours and numbers; they count as they go up and down the stairs. Children receive opportunities to investigate and explore; they look at worms, and grow plants and flowers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled in the childminder's care because she knows them well. She gathers information from parents about their personal routines so that there is continuity between home and the childminder. The childminder builds children's confidence and self-esteem by praising and encouraging them. They are encouraged to have a positive attitude towards each other through turn taking and being gentle with one another. The childminder has procedures in place to manage children's behaviour which she shares with parents in her service statement. The childminder is experimenting with ways to help her manage children's behaviour when they are away from the home.

Children have access to a range of activities and resources to promote a view of the world and to increase their awareness of diversity and understanding of others. For example, the childminder provides books, games, dressing up clothes and celebrates festival from around the world. Children learn about the local community and how to socialise with others, through regular outings to local amenities and childcare groups.

Contracts are in place recording business arrangements and appropriate parental permissions are obtained. As a result, there is consistency between home and the childminder. Effective communication from the childminder informs parents of the care that their children receive. A range of policies and procedures is available to parents. However, the complaints policy does not reflect recent changes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The environment is warm and welcoming. The routine is balanced to include rest times, meal times, play times and outings. Consequently, babies and children are secure in the care of the childminder.

The registration certificate is displayed for parents to see but the childminder does not operate within the conditions of her registration. The childminder is registered to mind two children under five. She is minding three children under five years. This is a breach of regulation. Her child is now over five years but the childminder did not inform Ofsted and apply for a variation. The registration has since been varied so that she may care for three children under five years.

The required documentation for the safe and effective management of the setting and to promote the welfare and care of children is maintained. The childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was made. It was to increase the range of dressing up clothes to provide more positive images of race and gender. The childminder has made good progress. As a result children have access to a range of activities and resources to promote a view of the world and to increase their awareness of diversity and understanding of others.

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 that procedures to prevent the spread of infection are consistent
- develop a complaints procedure that reflects current changes and ensure it is available to parents.
- ensure that the conditions of registration are met and keep Ofsted informed of significant changes.

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