

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY319942
Inspection date	18 December 2007
Inspector	Lara Hickson
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 lives with her husband and baby daughter in a three bedroom house in the New Ash Green area of Longfield in Kent. The home is within walking distance of local shops, schools and has good transport facilities. Children have access to the lounge/dining room area and two upstairs bedrooms, one for play and another for homework and/or computer activities. There is also a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder encourages children to develop independent hygiene practices from early age and reminds children of appropriate practice where required; for example, when a child washes their hands very quickly prior to snack time the childminder reminds the child that they must use soap to ensure that any germs are removed. The childminder talks to children about hygienic practices that help to prevent the spread of infection, for example, covering their mouths when coughing or sneezing.

The childminder has clear and effective policies in place regarding sickness to prevent the spread of infection, for example, the childminder does not care for children who have a contagious illness. The procedures in place for administering medication and for dealing with any accidents are effective and this safeguards children's health and welfare. The childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and is able to provide appropriate care in the event of an accident/emergency. She has obtained written parental permission in relation to emergency treatment and to administer medication. A first aid box is in place and is replenished where required.

The children enjoy a wide range of physical activities each week, which includes walks to the library and regular trips to the neighbouring park. These encourage and extend children's physical developmental skills. The childminder also uses physical activities to discuss changes on a child's body after exercise for example, when they run how their heart beats faster.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an extremely safe, child friendly home where risks have been identified and minimised, ensuring that their safety is fully promoted. Appropriate safety precautions have been applied, for example, the childminder ensures safety gates, safety catches and socket covers are in place. The children are transported safely in the car with the use of suitable car seats and the childminder conducts risk assessments before taking the children to new venues to maximise their safety when out. The childminder discusses potential dangers with children where appropriate to their level of understanding, for example, on the way home from school, road safety was discussed with a four-year-old. Children are closely supervised by the childminder whilst they play in the home, although she encourages them to develop their independence. As a result of the attention paid to safety, all the children are able to move safely around the setting.

The childminder has an emergency evacuation procedure in place and has discussed and practised this with the children regularly to ensure that they are fully aware of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire or emergency in the home.

Children can independently select from a wide range of toys and activities stored in low level stacking boxes, on shelving units and in storage baskets. All toys, resources and equipment are safe, clean and in excellent condition as a result of the childminders checks regarding safety and cleanliness. The childminder ensures that resources are suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of child protection issues and is aware of both the procedure to follow and her responsibilities with regards to recording and reporting any concerns. She keeps all procedures ready to hand, is aware of the signs that a child may be at risk and is confident of the referral process. A Child Protection Policy is available for parents to read and to understand the childminder's responsibilities with regards to recording and reporting any signs of abuse or neglect. However this still refers to Area Child protection procedures (ACPC).

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled and confident in the childminder's warm, welcoming family environment. They approach the childminder confidently and she is aware of their individual needs, characters and stage of development.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem as a result of the childminder's praise and encouragement. The childminder participates in play activities and talks to the children all the time, asking questions to make them think, extending their knowledge and understanding of the world and widening their vocabulary and language development. She introduces colour, number, shape during conversations with the children for example 'look we have a purple lid, it's a square'.

Children benefit from the suitability and accessibility of resources which encourages their independence and allows them to select toys and activities that interest them. All toys and activities available to the children are age and stage appropriate and provide appropriate challenge and interest. The younger children enjoy a treasure basket which they explore and investigate. Items such as grease proof paper, a scrubbing brush, a fir cone and wooden napkin rings are amongst the items in the treasure basket. The living room is set up as a playroom with bright coloured mats and stacking boxes and baskets. The childminder aims to offer childcare in a real home from home environment and this helps children to settle. Interaction between the children and the childminder is very good and children benefit from the close relationships that have been formed with the childminder and the individual attention they receive. During the inspection one child is settling in and the childminder is very supportive, engaging the child in different play activities, making the initial separation from her parent easier.

Different topics are arranged by the childminder for children to enjoy such as the weather, travel and our neighbourhood. A weekly planned activities sheet is in place with different activities planned for the children to experience and enjoy. The childminder has attended training in the Birth to three Matters framework and Foundation Stage and uses these documents to provide stimulating experiences for the children.

Children are taken on outings in the local community, they participate in a range of activities and experiences that allow them to explore, be active creative and use their imagination; for example younger children visit local toddler and music groups giving them the opportunity to mix and socialise with children of different ages. The childminder also takes the children on regular visits to the local library.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and highly valued by the childminder as an individual with their own unique needs. The childminder respects each child's individual needs and backgrounds and gains information about these through consultation with parents. Comprehensive child record forms are in place for all children with details of their dietary, medical, cultural and religious needs. Children receive praise and encouragement throughout the inspection when playing and this promotes their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder has a written equal opportunities policy in operation which outlines that all children are treated with equal care and concern. This is clearly reflected in her practice. Children have access to a range of toys and resources that reflect positive images of diversity such as race, culture, disability and

gender; for example the childminder has dolls from different cultures and small world people and books depicting race, culture and disability. Different festivals are celebrated throughout the year such as Baisakhi, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year and Divali. The childminder demonstrates a very positive approach towards non-stereotypical play which ensures that children's play opportunities are not restricted by their individual gender.

The childminder demonstrates a positive yet realistic approach to caring for a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and of meeting individual needs and requirements. All aspects of care would be discussed with parents prior to a placement commencing to agree the best way to support the child. The childminder is happy to complete additional training, as required, to ensure that she fully understands how to meet the needs of a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

A behaviour management policy is in place and highlights the childminder's positive, consistent approach. The childminder ensures that she uses age appropriate behaviour strategies and consistent, realistic boundaries. The childminder uses praise and positive language to reinforce appropriate behaviour and uses a gentle but firm voice to reinforce any minor behaviour rules.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of the benefits of working in partnership with parents and respecting their individual wishes. A parents handbook is in operation and clearly and comprehensively details each of the fourteen National Standards under the five outcomes and how the childminder intends to meet these. The childminder works in partnership with parents by keeping in regular contact through daily feedback and the use of a contact diary. Parental questionnaires are completed by parent and these are positive with comments such as 'my child looks forward to going to the childminder's and his feedback is very positive'.

A copy of the complaints poster is displayed on the notice board in the hallway with contact numbers. The childminder has not had any complaints since registration but would use the template from October 2005 revisions to record full details of any complaint. The childminder is aware of changes in legal requirements in relation to complaints and investigations. A written complaints statement provides parents with full details of the procedure to follow if they have a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are enhanced by the childminder's effective organisation. The well organised home setting enables the children to move around independently and safely. The childminder ensures that the children are only able to select age appropriate toys and activities from the range available. The childminder aims to provide a safe, happy place for children where they can grow, learn and have fun. She adheres to the National Standards and Guidance and implements best practice in both her organisation and childcare.

The childminder demonstrates an extremely organised, professional approach to maintaining good quality records. All documentation sampled was appropriately recorded, shared with parents, securely stored and kept for the required amount of time. In addition to the required documents the childminder also has an extensive portfolio containing written policies and procedures individual to her setting. These include child protection, equal opportunities, emergency evacuation and sickness procedures. The childminder is also aware of the need to keep Ofsted updated of any significant events and/or changes. The childminder has regular

routines in place which help children to feel confident, settled and cared for in a safe, stimulating and loving environment.

Children's safety is effectively promoted because the childminder has ensured that all adults are suitably vetted. The childminder maintains an accurate record of attendance which details the times of arrival and departure of each child. The current certificate of registration is available and displayed within the setting.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

N/A - first inspection

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 the child protection policy only includes and refers to the new terminology with regards to Local Safeguarding children board procedures rather than ACPC procedures

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