

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY152405
Inspection date 25 March 2008
Inspector Jeannette Waring

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 outstanding. 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 four children, a six year old son and three older teenage/adult children. The family live in an extended four bedroom, semi-detached house, in a quiet residential street close to Bexleyheath town centre. Schools, pre-schools and parks are close by and Barnehurst main line railway station is within easy walking distance. The main play space is the ground floor, back living/dining room, which is open-plan with the kitchen. There is also a play room and a ground floor shower room and WC which are used by the children. There is an enclosed back garden for outdoor play. The family have two cats.

The childminder has been registered since 2002 and may care for a maximum of five children under the age of eight years. She is currently caring for six children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder holds an NVQ Level Three qualification in Extending Childminding Practice.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and well-being is extremely well protected and promoted by the childminder. They are cared for in a very clean, comfortable and welcoming family home. Children are able to relax and rest in the comfortable living room and they have ample space to play, both in the living room and in the play room. Children are protected from the risk of cross infection because the childminder has excellent cleaning routines in place and has a good understanding of the importance of following good hygiene practices, for example, when dealing with children's personal care. Children are also encouraged to develop good personal hygiene routines. For example, as they learn to wash their hands after messy play, after using the toilet and before meals and as they clean their teeth after meals.

A clear policy on the care of sick children is shared with parents and includes exclusion periods for children with infectious illnesses. All required medical consent forms are in place, and a clear and detailed accident and medication record is in place and routinely shared with parents. These arrangements promote good continuity of care. The childminder is able to care for children in the event of an accident as she regularly up-dates her first aid training and makes sure that her fully stocked first aid box is ready to hand.

Children have excellent opportunities for physical play in the childminder's exceptionally well organised and well equipped back garden. The garden is divided into several distinct areas, including a decked area for all weather play, a grassed area, and an adventure area which includes a large climbing frame, a trampoline, a tree house and a wealth of other garden toys. At the far end of the garden is a securely fenced and gated family swimming pool which children use under the childminder's close supervision. In addition to the physical play in the garden, children enjoy walking to and from school through the woods with the childminder each day. Younger children enjoy weekly visits to a local toddler group and outings to local parks.

The childminder ensures that children in her care benefit from a healthy, nutritious and well balanced diet. She routinely discusses dietary restrictions with parents and ensures that these are complied with. She also takes account of individual children's likes and dislikes and allows children an element of choice. She provides parents of under fives with a daily contact sheet which details, the meals provided, how much children have eaten, and breaks the menu down into the appropriate food groups, so that parents are assured that children are provided with a balanced menu. A huge bowl of fruit is available to children and they enjoy selecting fruit for snacks and for desert. Activities such as making fruit kebabs provide opportunities for the childminder to discuss healthy lifestyles with the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in an exceptionally safe, secure and child-friendly environment. The childminder has carried out a thorough risk assessment of her home and garden and put in place very good arrangements to minimise all hazards. For example, each area of the garden is securely fenced and gated off from the next, ensuring that children can be well supervised at all times, and all kitchen cupboards and drawers are fitted with child-proof catches. The childminder also carefully assesses activities and puts in place good arrangements to keep children safe. For example, children only use the pool if parents give written permission, she

directly supervises this and she ensures that every child is wearing a life-vest when in the pool area.

Children enjoy selecting toys and resources from the wide range provided in the play room. The childminder provides a quite exceptional range of high quality books, toys and activities. They are all extremely well stored and organised in clearly labelled boxes in the play room, and resources for the youngest children stored at the lowest level, so that they are able to access them in safety. In addition, a selection of toys which relate to the week's theme are selected by the childminder each week and taken into the living room used by children. During the visit the topic was Fairies, and children enjoyed sitting in the cosy fairy glen that they had helped to create in the corner of the living room, as the childminder read them fairy stories.

The childminder ensures that children are protected from harm or neglect. She ensures that she regularly up-dates her child protection training and reviews her safeguarding policy to ensure that it complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She shares her policy with parents and is confident that she would know when and how to make a referral should she need to.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are relaxed and happy in the childminder's care. They thrive and gain confidence in the child-friendly and accessible environment. They develop independence as they move freely around the home and choose toys and activities from the play room. They flourish and develop positive self-esteem as the childminder encourages them to try new things and praises their efforts.

The childminder plans activities which children really enjoy. She uses the Foundation Stage guidance and the Birth to three matters framework for reference and this helps her to plan appropriately challenging activities. During the inspection children enjoyed activities planned around a theme of 'Fairies'. They particularly enjoyed planting some fairy seeds. They watered compacted compost and were delighted as it expanded to fill their container, they carefully sprinkled in seeds and then topped their compost with some fairy glitter before covering and placing on the window-sill where they would be able to watch them grow. Children also enjoyed dressing up games and listening to stories.

Children have many play opportunities in the childminder's exceptionally well organised garden, where they can choose from a wide range of garden toys, use the tree house, trampoline and climbing frame and, weather permitting and under very close supervision use the family swimming pool.

The childminder plans her days around the needs of the children in her care, making sure they have time to rest and time to be active. She plans regular outings, for example, to the park to feed the ducks and to local toddler groups, and she also organises picnics and occasional outings to the coast during the holidays.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn to value and respect each other from the childminder, who values each child as an individual. The childminder takes time to find out about each child's needs and family

background and this ensures that she is able to provide children with care appropriate to their individual circumstances. Children with disabilities and/or learning difficulties are welcome and, because the childminder has a strong commitment to working with parents, all children are assured of high quality care that meets their needs.

Children are very well behaved. They are polite, sociable and well mannered. They learn from the childminder who is calm and patient and always polite and courteous to the children. Even the youngest children play well together and are learning to share and to take turns. The childminder has a clear behaviour management policy which is shared with parents and this helps to promote continuity for children. Simple rules and boundaries are in place, which the children quickly learn and understand. As a result, there is little need for the childminder to do more than remind children of what she expects occasionally.

There are extremely good arrangements in place to promote effective partnerships with parents. As soon as parents arrive at the childminder's, an attractive and informative notice-board welcomes them in the comfortable porch. Contracts and consent forms underpin all arrangements and the use of daily contact sheets for all under fives ensures that parents have good information about their children's care and ensures good continuity of care for children. Regular newsletters give parents information about what children have been doing, what activities are planned for the future, and provide a forum for all families who use the childminder to share their news, such as the arrival of new babies. The childminder also uses the newsletter to inform parents about children who are leaving or joining her setting.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The childminder's excellent organisational skills ensure that children's health, safety, well-being and enjoyment is promoted. She makes sure that all adults who have regular contact with the children are suitably vetted and has good emergency cover arrangements in place. Her safe and secure home environment is well planned for childminding. The exceptional range of toys and resources are safely stored and attractively displayed for children, and the regular daily routines, which are planned around children's needs, ensure that children feel settled and secure.

All documentation is in place, well maintained and securely stored. Confidentiality is maintained and children's records are routinely shared with parents. The childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of the National Standards and associated regulations, and she regularly reviews her policies and procedures to ensure that they comply with these requirements and the requirements of other bodies, such as the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has improved arrangements for children's health and safety in a number of ways. She has made sure that the garden shed is secure. She has reviewed her policies in relation to medication, emergency medical treatment and child protection and ensured that they comply with requirements. She has also ensured that appropriate checks are completed for all adults in the household as they are required.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints 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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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