

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125289
Inspection date	20 March 2008
Inspector	Lisa Toole
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 1996. She lives with her husband, three adult children and one child aged 13 years in Yalding, 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 two children at any one time and is currently minding one child under eight on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment where satisfactory steps are taken to promote their health and general well-being as well as reducing risks of cross infection. Children wash their hands routinely, to learn about the importance of keeping clean, and have opportunities to rest and relax as part of a healthy lifestyle. Procedures are in place to safeguard their welfare if children have an accident because the childminder has a current first aid certificate in place

and understands about the need to maintain an accurate accident record. However, she does not have written consent to seek emergency medical treatment for the minded children to ensure they are cared for at all times in line with parents' wishes.

Children are offered regular snacks, including items such as fresh fruit, which helps promote healthy eating and ensures they are well nourished. Children are also able to easily access their drinks of water to help them stay hydrated throughout the day.

Children's physical development is supported through daily exercise and regular opportunities to get fresh air as they play in the childminder's garden or visit local play parks. Indoors, children have opportunities to practise and develop their fine motor skills through activities such as drawing and other craft activities and playing with small world toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from playing in a welcoming and comfortable environment, allowing them to play and move around freely both in and outdoors. Most hazards in the home have been reduced or made safe but there are electrical leads trailing on the floor and other hazardous household items, such as a disposable razor, accessible to children. This impacts on children's welfare as it puts them at a risk of injury. The premises are maintained securely and appropriate measures are in place regarding the collection of children to ensure they are only collected by authorised persons. Children are safely seated in the childminder's car on outings but she has not obtained written permission to take children out. Children are able to develop an understanding about their own personal safety as they learn how to cross roads safely.

Children have easy access to a satisfactory range of toys and play resources which are appropriate for their age, play and learning needs. Toys are kept at low level in the lounge and play room and this enables the children to make their own choices about what they do and play with. Equipment is routinely checked for safety and cleanliness and this helps ensure it is suitable for the children to play with.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the procedures to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care. She understands her role in the protection of children but does not ensure that all household members over the age of 16 have undergone the necessary vetting as part of the childminder's ongoing safeguarding precautions.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled, happy and comfortable in the childminder's care. They have established friendly and positive relationships with her to help them feel secure. They have opportunities to develop their confidence and independence because they have sufficient toys to play with during the day. Toys are accessible to them at floor level and the range available to them supports their development in the key areas of learning.

A satisfactory range of activities is available to the children and include things such as free play, art and craft, watching a little television and occasionally doing cooking. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of how to support children's care, play and

learning needs through different activities in order to support their overall developmental needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have some opportunities to learn about the wider world as they are able to access a small range of toys and resources that reflect positive images of equality and ethnicity. Settling-in sessions are used by the childminder to find out relevant information about each child and specific care needs they may have, including any learning difficulty or disability. She also establishes with the parents what their children's routines are to provide consistency of care between the childminder and home for the child.

Children's behaviour is encouraged through praise and encouragement in order to foster their self esteem and help them gain confidence. The childminder works in partnership with parents to help ensure their children are being cared for in line with their wishes but she does not have a sound understanding of the mandatory complaints procedures to follow if a parent raises any concerns about the care she provides for their children. She provides parents with daily verbal feedback about each child's day so they are aware of how their child has been, what they have been doing and what they have eaten.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

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

Children are able to feel secure and comfortable in the childminder's care because of her friendly approach and she works within her conditions of registration at all times. She is aware of the need to safeguard children through good supervision but has not sought the necessary checks for her own adult children to ensure children's welfare is protected. Children benefit from having access to a generally well organised play space and are able to easily access toys to support their learning and developmental needs.

The documentation required for the safe and efficient management of her childminding practice is mostly in place; it is basically well maintained and stored securely for confidentiality. There is one weakness relating to the lack of written consent for emergency medical treatment and for outings so that children are cared for in line with their parents' wishes.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were raised relating to hazards in the garden and the records for childminding being available at all times. Since the last inspection the childminder has ensured that hazards are not accessible to children in the garden and she checks the area before children go out to play, as part of her on-going safety measures for the children when they play outdoors. The childminder now has her documentation relating to the care, safety and welfare of children easily accessible and available at inspection.

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 children are protected from hazards in the home relating to disposable razors and electrical leads
- ensure that all persons over the age of 16 years undertake all necessary checks
- ensure that all documentation relating to the care of minded children is in place and appropriately maintained
- develop an increased understanding of the requirements and procedures to be followed regarding complaints.

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