

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY244064
Inspection date	09 June 2008
Inspector	Linda Patricia Coccia
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 2003. She lives with her partner and two children aged eight and two years in Penenden Heath, Maidstone, Kent. The whole ground floor and an upstairs toilet in 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding one seven-year-old. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet cat. The childminder 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 a clean home with a welcoming environment, where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating or handling food and after using the toilet reduces the risk of

cross contamination. The childminder has appropriate records in place for accidents and administering medication. However, her paediatric first aid certificate has expired.

Children are offered a varied, healthy diet. The childminder works closely with parents to provide good quality fresh food, snacks and drinks. The current children are very choosy about the food they eat so the childminder works closely with them too and they discuss healthy eating options. Children learn about healthy eating.

Children benefit from regular physical exercise as there is a range of suitable physical play equipment available in the garden, for example, the climbing frames. During school holidays the children accompany the childminder to local parks and places of interest further afield, where they can access large static equipment. Children enjoy their physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are light, airy and well decorated. Children can move around freely between the lounge and conservatory areas. Toys are stored within easy reach of the older children but those with small pieces are out of reach of the younger ones. Appropriate safety equipment is in place to help keep the smaller children safe, such as stair gates and socket covers. The toys and equipment that the children use are appropriate to their ages, safe, checked regularly for hygiene and cleaned when necessary. Emergency evacuation procedures and fire safety equipment are in place. However, the childminder has not yet practised her procedures with the children. Children are looked after in a safe environment.

Children are kept safe from harm and neglect as the childminder has a sound understanding of her duty to protect children. She records any existing injuries and discusses these with parents. Although she has a suitable knowledge of child protection in general, she has no current written information on her Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Overall children's well-being is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children report that they enjoy their time with the childminder and consider the activities she provides as fun. They have access to a range of toys and activities suitable for their age group. They get involved in a range of activities from art work, when they enjoy creating intricate drawings with pens and felt tips, to physical play such as football and imaginary conflict games for which they use the garden amenities. Appropriate computer game consoles are also available and these are time limited to ensure children do not spend too long on them. The childminder has suitable toys and activities for younger children too. Children like to instigate their own games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a range of positive images within their books and games. Any issues that arise are discussed with the children so that they can understand their implications, such as excluding individuals from games. Although the childminder has no experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities she would discuss any issues that arise with parents to provide the best possible care on offer.

Children are advised of the childminder's house rules. She has appropriate behaviour management strategies in place to deal with unwanted behaviour and the childminder has discussed her procedures with parents. Children learn about acceptable behaviour.

The childminder has a suitable working relationship with parents and they discuss any care issues which may arise. The childminder also provides parents with a written service statement. However, some of the information is out of date. Children benefit from continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder displays her registration certificate. All adults in the household have been vetted and hold current Criminal Record Bureau checks. The childminder has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child, for example, the child record sheets. The attendance register is completed daily and all relevant paperwork is shared with parents. Paperwork is maintained confidentially and stored appropriately in a secure cupboard. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder received a recommendation to update her service statement. She included information about Ofsted's contact details and how to make a complaint. Further changes in childcare regulations have required this to remain as a recommendation for this inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 the first aid certificate is current
- ensure that children have the opportunity to practise the emergency evacuation procedures

- update knowledge regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- ensure information in the service statement is current

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