

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357390
Inspection date	30 July 2008
Inspector	Fran Fielder
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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and one child aged three in a house close to the town centre in Heathfield.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a room on the first floor for sleeping babies. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family has two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently caring for three children, all on a part time basis. The childminder regularly attends toddler clubs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and relaxed environment where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene. Effective daily routines and the childminder's own good practice prevent cross infection. For example, children have their own hand towels and discuss how to care for

their teeth. This ensures children develop good hygiene habits from an early age. The childminder gathers relevant information about the children's medical and dietary needs.

The childminder provides a variety of fresh and dried fruit as snacks. She also offers rice cakes, breadsticks and crackers. Children enjoy a healthy range of light meals including a range of sandwiches, beans or cheese on toast or soup and a roll. Main meals include casseroles, fish, lasagne or shepherd's pie. These dishes are always accompanied by vegetables. Water is always available in suitable containers. Children have plenty to drink and this contributes to their good health.

Children enjoy lots of physical exercise that keeps them healthy. Indoors they love to dance and have daily opportunities to play on large equipment in the garden where they climb, balance and ride on wheeled toys. Children go to the park and for walks. All these activities ensure children's enthusiasm for physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Young children have strong relationships with the childminder who is responsive to their needs. This caters for their emotional well-being and ensures they feel safe, valued and comfortable in the childminder's home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a very welcoming environment. The space is well organised and this allows children to move around safely. They have easy and safe access to a wide range of toys and resources that are stimulating and suitable for children's stage of development. Regular checks ensure there are no broken items that could harm a child. An extensive risk assessment of the home together with daily assessment of all areas ensures children's safety.

There are excellent procedures to keep children safe when on outings and travelling in the car. Children are made aware of road safety and 'Stranger Danger'. Before visiting anywhere with the children, she carries out a full risk assessment so she is aware of any potential dangers. The childminder carries details of each child with permission from parents to seek emergency treatment in the event of an accident. She includes information about herself that would alert emergency services to the fact that she is a childminder and that the children with her may not be her own. This and many other features safeguards children at all times.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of child protection issues. She knows the signs and symptoms and how to proceed if she has any concern about a child in her care. She is clear about her role, explains this to parents and ensures they have written information regarding her responsibility towards the children. This supports and promotes children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play happily and confidently in the childminder's home. They often approach the childminder just for a cuddle, especially if they are feeling tired. This indicates very positive and trusting relationships. Lots of praise and encouragement builds self-esteem and makes children want to tackle new challenges. Children show independence as they freely choose from a selection of good quality toys.

The childminder uses a daily diary for each child that includes information about everything in the child's day, including food intake, mood and activities enjoyed. The diary allows parents to see exactly how their children have spent their day and enables both parents and childminder to track anything unusual.

Children enjoy a variety of activities that are fun and age appropriate. They love to listen to stories such as 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and are able to recite parts of the story as this is being read. They also enjoy an extensive range of art and craft activities such as painting, drawing, collage work and drawing with large chalks on the patio. They enjoy playing with small world characters and have pretend parties. Visits to toddler clubs give children the opportunity to mix with other children. This helps them develop important social skills such as sharing. Very good interaction with the childminder ensures children's language develops well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder treats children with respect and acknowledges their individuality. She has a sufficient range of toys and books that reflect positive images of diversity. She talks positively to children about different people in society. This helps children see and accept differences from an early age. She knows the children extremely well and this makes children feel confident and relaxed. Children behave well when with the childminder. She uses positive strategies to promote good behaviour. Constant praise and encouragement helps children develop a good self-image.

Parents receive a detailed welcome pack that outlines details of the childminder and all aspects of the service she provides. The pack includes policies and procedures and the childminder makes sure all parents have details of the complaints procedure easy to hand in their child's care diary. Comments from parents are very positive stating that the childminder is trustworthy, caring and patient. Parents are also pleased with the range of activities she provides.

The childminder gathers highly detailed information about each child including their favourite pastimes, television programmes and toys. Information about how children react when they are frightened, tired or sick ensures the childminder can recognise signs and act according to children's needs throughout the day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play in a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to make them feel secure and confident. The childminder keeps up to date with current good practice by attending relevant courses and using the internet to take online courses. Recently, she has completed training in child protection, food hygiene and how to implement the Early Years Foundation Stage. This ensures she builds her knowledge of childcare so she can support individual children and is fully aware of all requirements.

All required paperwork is in place and extremely well maintained. The childminder has very good contingency plans in place to cater for any emergency. She ensures parents know about these arrangements. The childminder has an excellent set of written policies and procedures that guide her in her daily practice. This ensures children's needs are met and all relevant information is shared with parents. The information kept about children is relevant and helps

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

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):

- increase resources that reflect positive images of all people in society

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