

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY357976
Inspection date 04 August 2008
Inspector Beryl Witheridge

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 school aged child in Marden, Kent. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house plus one bedroom is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding three children part time. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and childminding group.

The childminder can support children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are encouraged to be healthy. They take part in a lot of outdoor activities which helps with their physical development. They play in the garden with a good range of toys and equipment and also visit local parks and places of interest. Children have opportunities to learn about good health issues. They know they need to wash their hands before they eat food and after going to the toilet. The childminder lets them choose their own towel on a daily basis which they hang on their peg. She encourages them with lots of praise and encouragement and the use of positive language such as 'let's get rid of the germs' and 'remember to wash the front and back of your hands'. All surfaces are cleaned with anti-bacterial spray to ensure they are clean and hygienic and safe for the children to use. Children with infectious conditions do not attend. All these procedures are in place to help prevent cross infection. Procedures are in place to provide the children with suitable care if they are taken ill while with the childminder. Children's health needs are promoted because the childminder keeps individual accident and medication records for each child. Children are able to rest in comfortable surroundings; the bedroom where they sleep has been decorated as a nursery. Their individual routines are adhered to as far as is practically possible.

Children are encouraged to eat healthy foods and know that drinks are readily available. Water is available at all times in their own cup on the kitchen table and is replenished as and when needed. The childminder is aware of any individual dietary requirements of the children. She provides a weekly menu which is displayed in the kitchen. All foods are cooked from fresh using fresh ingredients. Meals include options such as sausage and mash, shepherd's pie, Thai fish cakes, homemade pizza and curries. Snacks and lunch have options such as omelettes, scrambled eggs, ham and cheese plus a choice of fruit. When children go shopping with the childminder they are able to choose their favourite fruits and vegetables. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children's dietary needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, comfortable, child friendly environment. They benefit from being able to play and learn within safe boundaries. The childminder ensures that her home is safe and secure and that children are unable to leave the setting unaccompanied. There is a secure outdoor area for them to play which is used as often as possible. Children are supervised at all times and they have plenty of room to move about freely and enjoy their games and activities. Toys and equipment are checked on a regular basis and appear safe and appropriate for the ages and stages of development of the children attending. A carbon monoxide detector, smoke detectors and a fire blanket are in place to help ensure that the home is safe for the children. These are checked regularly to ensure they are well-maintained. The childminder has also received a visit from the fire officer. Children are beginning to understand the importance of keeping themselves safe. The childminder explains why certain procedures are necessary such as walking in the house and not stepping on the toys as they may fall and hurt themselves or break the toys. The arrival and departure procedures ensure children's safety with the childminder meeting all emergency contacts and having a password system should someone other than the parents collect the children.

Children's welfare is paramount. The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and is intending to update her knowledge by attending a training course. She will then update her written policy in line with the current information from the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The childminder has emergency evacuation procedures in place which are discussed with the children. Younger children know that 'fire is hot'. This will be practised more regularly with the children as they get older, so they know how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, confident and settled in the childminder's home. They enjoy their time playing and having fun. Children have the choice of a wide range of activities which are all freely accessible in the dining room; others are available in the hall cupboard where the childminder has to help them to reach them. Toys are regularly rotated so that children receive more variety. Toys and resources include construction, dolls, prams, imaginative play, kitchen, bikes, book corner, cars, helicopters, farm animals, train set, garage and much more. Children are able to make choices about the stories they want to listen to and eagerly pick their favourite, joining in with the childminder and answering questions about the story. This is a tool which is used successfully before settling children for a rest. Children's work is proudly displayed so that they can take pride and achievement in their work. The childminder is excellent at asking children open ended questions to help them extend their imaginations and their vocabulary. Outdoor experiences are fully promoted with a range of resources available, including ride on cars, bike, parachute, climbing frame, slide, swing, trampoline, bubble machines, golf set and football. The childminder also tries to get out every day. There are two local play parks and the children also visit Mote Park. All of these activities help to encourage and develop children's physical growth and stamina. Children are friendly and sociable and enjoy the company of the childminder; they like to be acknowledged for their achievements. The childminder understands the developmental needs of children of all ages.

Children take part in a lot of activities which help to improve their social skills; they meet regularly with other children at the local toddler and childminder group. This is a very active group where the children are able to mix happily and safely with other childminders and their children. The childminder provides written plans of the activities provided for the children. She uses her knowledge of each child and their future needs, strengths and weaknesses to lead the planning. Activities are regularly evaluated so that she can be sure that she is meeting their individual needs and record how the activities can be improved or extended. She always aims to ensure that the children have plenty of experiences available to extend their learning and to provide them with opportunities to play, learn and grow in suitable, exciting, stimulating surroundings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder welcomes all children and their parents into her home and treats all children according to their individual needs. These are discussed with their parents and the childminder aims to address these and ensures that all children are included in all experiences. Children demonstrate a great sense of belonging as they make themselves at home and interact very well with the childminder. Toys and resources promote some positive images of diversity of society; they have been introduced to food from different countries at meal times as well as

having equipment such as multi cultural dressing up, books, multi cultural dolls and toys representing disabilities. The childminder feels that she would like to extend these so she uses the childminding library to help extend the range of resources available to the children. The childminder has plans to introduce the children to activities relating to various festivals such as Chinese New Year, Divali, Hanukah, Christmas and Easter. Children are then in a position to learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and others as well as explore ideas about the wider world. Children's awareness of the world around them is developed through visits to local places of interest and meeting with other children and adults. Young children are also able to use baby sign which the childminder uses to encourage and develop their speech. She has a very good understanding of learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD) and understands the importance of working with parents and outside agencies to ensure that children reach their full potential.

Children are always polite and well behaved. They know what the behavioural boundaries are and the childminder is a good role model; she encourages good manners and praises children regularly, which helps to promote their confidence and self-esteem. Children's welfare is promoted through the childminder's positive approach to their needs and their behaviour. Children benefit from consistency of care; the childminder works closely with parents at all times and has a professional but friendly relationship with them. Contact notes are offered to record daily activities and development as well as discussing children's progress with the parents on a daily basis. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about all relevant policies and procedures; they each receive their own copies. They also receive newsletters which inform them of details of future planning and activities.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are settled and feel very at home within a warm, welcoming, well organised environment. They are relaxed and at ease with the childminder who provides good quality care. The required documentation and records are in place, including daily attendance records, which show clear arrival and departure times for children and are completed daily. The registration certificate is clearly displayed and the records are all stored confidentially. All records are readily available for inspection. The childminder is continuing to undertake training to update her knowledge and has a positive attitude towards ensuring she meets best practice requirements. Children's welfare, care and learning are well promoted, due to the range of policies and procedures, which are shared with the parents and are well implemented by the childminder. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable, this is the first inspection since registration.

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 complaint 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):

- update the child protection policy in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board 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