

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360459
Inspection date	21 May 2008
Inspector	Linda Margaret Nicholls
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 has been registered since 2007. Registration is for two children. There are currently two children on roll, none of whom are full time. Registration does not include overnight care. The childminder lives with her family in Dartford, Kent. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes. The family have a pet dog. A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop a clear understanding of personal health and hygiene practice through everyday routines. The childminder ensures the play equipment is clean so that the risk of cross infection to children is minimised. Children wash their hands after messy play and before eating food.

Children enjoy regular physical activity in the garden as they kick the football or throw the large silver ball. Young children develop positive attitudes to exercise with daily trips to and

from school and planned weekly activities including time in the local play park. They develop balance and coordination as they bounce on the trampoline. Children know how to relax. They give the childminder hugs and cuddles or sit quietly to watch TV when they need to rest.

Children learn about healthy food. They thoroughly enjoy the fruit snacks provided after school. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure individual dietary needs are met. Children have access to water throughout the day.

Children who have an infection do not attend which prevents the spread of contagious illness. All required documents are clearly and effectively maintained. Parents are reassured as emergency contact numbers are held. The childminder has arranged additional cover with a registered childminder should this be required. Parents are informed and prepared well for emergencies, for example when children may be taken ill or there may be a serious accident requiring emergency treatment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and adults are welcomed into an organised and well maintained home. The floor space is uncluttered and children make independent choices from free standing resources or activities. There is good natural light and adequate ventilation. The home has comfortable furniture and clean bright décor. Children select from a wide variety of toys in the playroom. Resources are checked for repair or discarded.

Children cannot access items that could be dangerous such as cleaning liquids and powders because the childminder ensures these are secured. She routinely completes an informal risk assessment of her home but this is not recorded. The home is secure and children play safely. Fire safety recommendations are in place and a written exit plan is available to parents. Children know where to stand should there be an emergency, although the practice of emergency procedures is not recorded. Parents are aware of the childminder's safety procedures including agreed emergency cover. Public liability insurance is current.

Children feel cared for and secure as they are closely supervised at all times both in the home and at outside venues. They learn to keep themselves safe. They know not to throw footballs into the netted trampoline to protect their feet and ankles. Road safety habits are reinforced by the childminder who discusses these as they walk along local roads.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. Training was undertaken in 2007. Parents are informed of her professional role. Local and national contact numbers are held on file and displayed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are stimulated, supported and engaged in playing with a football or making a picture for their grandparents. Children are confident and proud of their achievements because the childminder praises their work and the behaviour she wants. Children make purposeful and independent choices regarding their play. They can select from a range of good quality items such as dolls, games, books, a croquet set, a set of boules and a trampoline. Children extend their developing physical skills as they kick and dribble the ball or do forward rolls. Children

engage the childminder in conversation as they play. She aids the development of language and encourages them to read or complete homework when necessary.

Children receive gentle guidance from the childminder encouraging them to care for each other. They learn to respect differences and share resources. They have appropriate self control and understanding of right and wrong. Children are developing a sense of belonging as they play with members of the childminder's family. The childminder is forward thinking and plans activities to provide one to one play throughout their stay.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children show confidence and are developing good levels of self esteem. They are respected and allowed to feel good about themselves. The childminder has a positive attitude towards physical difference and cultural diversity. She encourages children to acknowledge differences and provides a sufficient range of equipment such as books, games and dolls so that they may explore their ideas. Children receive consistency of care because individual requirements and family preferences are recorded and discussed at the initial interview. The childminder is aware of the supportive role she may offer to children with learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities should this be required.

Children know how to control themselves, are polite and learn to care for each other because the childminder offers them a good role model. They know the childminder's rules because she gives simple consistent reinforcement for the behaviour she wants. Children share toys and care for the family dog. Behaviour management methods are discussed at an initial meeting with parents and a record of incidents will be maintained.

The partnership with parents is good. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about relevant policies and procedures. Written agreements are used and individual details are recorded, for example, GP details, medical information and adults identified to collect children are recorded. Signed permissions are sought and held on file. Daily information is exchanged and this ensures potential concerns are resolved immediately. The childminder is aware to develop a procedure for concerns or complaints she may receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children show an established self confidence and sense of belonging in an organised and welcoming home. They demonstrate strong self worth and contentment. Children's imaginations are stimulated and engaged because equipment is provided to meet their individual abilities and requirements.

The childminder has a professional attitude and keeps all documentation to a good standard. Records, policies and procedures are securely held and readily available for inspection. A written risk assessment of the play areas is not monitored and the practice of emergency exit procedures is not recorded. Registered ratios are maintained and the record of attendance notes when children are present and why they are absent. The childminder is attending the Diploma in Home-Based Childcare Practice and holds a current certificate in first aid for children and babies. The registration document is displayed. She is aware to inform parents and the registering body of any changes to her circumstances that may affect the welfare of children. 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 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):

- consider developing a written risk assessment of the play areas and recording emergency exit practice.

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