



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY301744
Inspection date 10 October 2005
Inspector Lesley Anne Cannon

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 2005. She lives with her husband and one pre-school aged child in Bearsted, near Maidstone.

The ground floor of the house is used for childminding, and one bedroom will be used for young children who need to sleep. 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. There are currently three children on roll.

The childminder can walk to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a varied and balanced diet where regular meal times are maintained and are offered healthy snacks and drinks are made available. Children learn about food processes when they help select food from the vegetable patch in the garden. This extends the children's knowledge of healthy eating and gives them choice. The childminder works with parents of those children who have dietary requirements maintaining continuity of their diet. Children learn about personal hygiene through clear daily routines. They are encouraged to be independent when washing their hands and understand the need to clean their teeth after eating. Children have frequent opportunity for exercise outside. They are motivated by equipment available in the garden helping to build their confidence. They also have regular outings to the park where larger equipment is available to extend their physical skills. Babies also benefit from encouragement with physical activities when learning to crawl and stand supported by the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a spacious environment where safety precautions are in place with effective procedures to minimise hazards. Downstairs children can move around independently. They can access the rooms where appropriate equipment and resources are available. The childminder monitors the resources to ensure they are safe for children to access. Children benefit from outings where the childminder helps children to build on their understanding of personal safety. This allows children to explore their surroundings confidently.

The childminder is aware of child protection procedures and the need to safe guard children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and happy with the childminder, allowing them to move around independently selecting activities and resources as they choose. The childminder makes toys available for the children present. Older children can select from resources that are displayed, whilst the childminder selects toys for babies making sure they can reach the selection. This helps children to make choices and is encouraging independence. However the resources available for older children did not offer a balance to stimulate their intellectual capabilities. Children are supported

when looking at books encouraging interaction and promoting language, they also have trips to the local library to encourage an appreciation of books. Children also have access a range of creative activities that gives them opportunity to expand their imaginative and creative skills. Children share in the planting of flowers and vegetables gaining an understanding of the natural world. The children are confident in their relationship with the childminder which encourages development through care and interaction.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity. However resources currently do not reflect this so children lack opportunity in this area. Children that attend are valued as individuals and encouraged to feel good about themselves. Children bring a small selection of toys from home to help them develop a sense of belonging. Children are encouraged to share activities together and learning right from wrong in a safe environment. This helps children to develop their social skills and encourages interaction with their peers. Children benefit from the working relationship the childminder has with the parents. Daily diaries are shared ensuring daily routines are maintained to provide children with continuity of care. Although there are no children attending with special needs, the childminder is forward thinking how she can support and assist the children and their parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed the relevant training and uses this knowledge to provide an effective service for the children in her care. Children benefit from an environment that is well managed. On occasions when days have time constraints the childminder uses her time wisely by attending activities in a similar location. They then undertake more constructive activities at home when time is not so pressured. Children benefit from clear methods that are in place for sharing information with parents. The childminder keeps information and documents up to date, which helps maintain continuity of care for the children.

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

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints by parents, which they can

see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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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):

- develop resources that reflect anti- discriminatory practice
- ensure the range of resources available reflect children intellectual capabilities

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk