



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY301502
Inspection date	23 November 2005
Inspector	Jenny Kane

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 March 2005. She lives with her husband and two children in Lyminge near Folkestone. The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding except for the games room. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 6 children aged between 0 - 8 years on a full and part time basis.

The school, pre-school, toddler group, shops and park are within walking distance. The family has a cat and rabbits.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a clean and well-organised environment. The childminder actively promotes the good health of the children by maintaining a high standard of hygiene. They understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before eating food.

The childminder has a good understanding of nutritious eating and provides healthy snacks. The children bring their own food which they eat together at the kitchen table using suitable chairs.

They are able to rest when they need to and have their own bedding and are monitored regularly. The childminder discusses the routine and the best place for children to sleep with the parents. She records sleep patterns, food intake and nappy changes in the contact book, which helps to keep the parents informed.

The children take part in physical activities on a daily basis. They play in the garden and go for walks to local shops and the park to use the play equipment. They usually walk to and from school each day, which helps them understand that exercise is important for a healthy lifestyle. Younger children communicate verbally and non-verbally, they approach the childminder for cuddles and reassurance. This supports their emotional wellbeing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children benefit from playing in a spacious and welcoming environment. A risk assessment of all areas both inside and out means that children are able to move about and use the space freely and safely. Children have access to the garden and a range of outside play equipment but it was not in use during the inspection.

The children play with a range of good quality toys and resources that are stimulating and suitable for children's age and stage of development. They have good access to the toys, which are stored on shelves and in boxes. As a result, children select what they play with and make choices for themselves.

Their safety on outings is paramount with the use of appropriate equipment such as reins and buggies for the younger children. The childminder ensures that she has all the necessary written information about the children in her care with her and that she carries a first aid kit. The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities

regarding child protection issues. This ensures that children are safe and protected in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are happy, well settled and secure in the childminder's home. The childminder has a flexible routine and provides a mix of activities and outings. The babies learn to express themselves in different ways, they watch older children with interest and receive good support from the childminder. They benefit from socialising with other children of similar age during visits to the toddler group.

The childminder is keen to increase her knowledge of child development and intends to start using the Birth to three matters framework to provide a wider range of activities for children under three. Older children communicate well and initiate conversations. They enjoy books and listening to stories and have favourites which they know well.

The children use their imagination during dressing up and role play. They enjoy drawing and are beginning to understand about different colours. The school age children are able to choose what they do and where they play which encourages independence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children's self-esteem and confidence is encouraged by the childminder who treats them as individuals and acknowledges all children have differing needs. She uses distraction and diversion, sets clear boundaries and has reasonable expectations about what children can achieve. As a result, behaviour is generally good.

The children are encouraged to make effective use of all the toys which include some resources that reflect diversity. The childminder intends to make further use of the book and toy libraries to help children increase their knowledge of the wider world. She is confident about providing care for children with a special need or disability and the premises are user friendly.

The written information in the form of a service statement is in place, which sets out arrangements for care, policies and procedures. However, parts of this need updating and the parents would benefit from having a copy of this information. The children's needs are met through discussion with parents on a daily basis. A contact diary for babies and toddlers allows parents and childminder to share useful information which ensures continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is organised and children benefit from the flexible routine. She cares for a mix of ages but manages her time effectively so that she can give children relevant time and attention while they are in her care.

All required documentation is in place. However, the reorganisation of the storage of children's records would help to keep them confidential. The childminder has a good commitment to self development and improvement. She intends to build on existing skills and knowledge by attending training and meeting other childminders.

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

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. There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- further develop the range of experiences for young children, for example by using the Birth to three framework
- update policies and consider ways of sharing written information with parents
- organise children's records to ensure they are kept confidentially

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