



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY301251 |
| Inspection date | 26 September 2005 |
| Inspector | Lesley Anne Cannon |

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| 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:

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| The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding. |
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At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her partner in a village between Maidstone and Rochester. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding, with one bedroom upstairs. There is an enclosed back garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time, currently there are two children on roll. The childminder is able to take and collect

from local schools. Children also attend local parent and toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy home where they learn the importance of personal hygiene. Children are protected from infection as the childminder helps parents to be aware of infectious diseases and prevents cross infection by not taking children when they are sick. A range of outdoor equipment is available, however this is only suitable for younger children. Visits to the local park and walks in the country side helps promote physical well being. The childminder works with the parents to decide if a cooked meal or snack meal is most appropriate. The childminder offers healthy snacks encouraging healthy eating habits. Children can access their own drinks encouraging independence. The childminder works with parents of those children have special dietary needs to enable the children to be given continuity in their diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment where relevant safety precautions are in place, and effective procedures are in place to minimise hazards. This enables children to move around independently downstairs and access toys freely. Children benefit from a playroom upstairs where access is supervised to maintain their safety. The resources and equipment are checked regularly for damaged or broken items preventing injury to the children. The childminder promotes safety when on outings, giving children clear instructions on how to help children stay safe.

The childminder has the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. The childminder has an understanding of child protection in line with the local child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and at ease with the childminder; offering children a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Children can move around independently choosing from a reasonable selection of activities promoting their independence. The childminder makes available a selection toys for younger children that are stimulating such as role play, duplo and peg puzzles. However the resources available for older children lacked opportunities to develop their physical and intellectual skills. Children enjoy reading books, the childminder reads with the children promoting interaction and extending their vocabulary. The childminder makes available a varied range of creative activities such as, painting, cutting, and sticking, this helps children to

expand their imaginative skills. 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 good.

Children are seen and treated as individuals and are made to feel good about themselves, discussing daily routines with parents verbally and through a daily diary, this helps maintain continuity of care. Children talk freely, relating events about extended family and siblings. Children benefit from praise and encouragement and basic ground rules are maintained by the childminder giving children stability. The childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity and children have access to an interesting range of resources that reflect positive images of those in society.

The childminder has some experience of caring for children with special needs and understands the need to work with the parents and other agencies to maintain continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has completed the relevant training and is interested in keeping her childcare knowledge up to date. Children benefit from this well organised environment, they can relax and feel comfortable in their surroundings. Children benefit from the clear systems in place for working with parents and sharing of information. The childminder maintains relevant documents and provides parents with information regarding the provision of her service. However, she has not shared with the parents, how to contact the regulatory body should the need arise.

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.

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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):

- ensure resources are available for preschool children that extend children's physical and intellectual skills
- ensure parents can access details on how to contact the regulatory body

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