



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126888
Inspection date	01 September 2005
Inspector	Virginia Cooper

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 1996. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Minster, Isle of Sheppey. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and one bedroom is used to sleep children. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are six children currently on roll.

The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The

childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The family have a dog, budgie, fish, snakes and lizards. The snakes and lizards are kept in a garden shed.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Babies and young children's emotional development is nurtured; they are given lots of attention encouraging a positive self-image. Young babies observe and respond to their immediate environment and communicate with those about them.

The childminder promotes the good health of children and takes positive steps to prevent the spread of infection. She cleans the premises and equipment thoroughly, and teaches children about hygiene, for example good hand washing procedures. She does not care for children who are contagious and takes appropriate measures if they become poorly whilst they are in her care until their parents collect them.

The childminder obtains written parental permission before administering any medication to ensure children are never given anything inappropriate. Parents sign the record of any medicine administered to children to keep them well informed and prevent accidental overdose.

The childminder keeps a record of all accidents to children and any first aid administered. Parents sign the record to ensure they are well informed about what has happened, and can continue to monitor their child at home if necessary.

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in adequate quantities for their needs. They are encouraged to try new foods; the tasting sessions are fun and the emphasis is on trying to see if they like something. It doesn't matter if they dislike something, therefore trying new foods does not have bad associations for the child. The childminder has had success encouraging children to eat vegetables and fruit even when they have not been keen to do this at home. Food and drink is properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose. The childminder generally cares for children in a room that is dedicated to childminding; however, the whole of downstairs is available and one bedroom is also used for sleeping children. The children are comfortable with the familiar surroundings; the childminding room is

suitably furnished and all the equipment and toys are easily accessible, providing a stimulating environment that allows children to make choices. The childminder prepares the environment before children arrive each day so they can immediately come in and find something to play with, helping them feel secure and at home.

The childminder purchases toys and equipment of suitable design and condition and ensures they are well maintained to protect children.

The childminder takes positive steps to promote safety within the setting and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents. She has a routine to check that all the safety equipment is in place every day and takes advice from other professionals about fire safety to keep children safe. Stair gates are used to prevent children accessing areas that are not suitable for them, and to keep the family dog separate. All hazardous materials are locked away or out of reach preventing children from accessing anything that is poisonous or unsuitable. Children are taught simple safety rules and appreciate that these are to protect them, for example, their car seat straps are only undone by the childminder to ensure they do not undo their restraints whilst the vehicle is in motion. The childminder has purchased special T shirts, all the same colour for children to wear on outings so they can be easily identified; she has sewn her mobile phone number inside all the shirts as an added precaution if a child was to get lost.

The childminder has a good understanding of signs and symptoms of abuse. She understands she has a duty to protect children and she has information available about who to contact if she has concerns about any child in her care to ensure they get the help they need to keep them safe. She has not however prepared any written procedures to ensure parents understand what action she would take.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the good variety and range of fun and stimulating play opportunities. They have toys and equipment that help them develop in all areas; they love to cook and undertake creative play. They are able to choose freely from the resources available encouraging their independence.

Children are often taken to a group where they have the opportunity to participate in themed activities, for example Wild West Day, Messy Play Day and Space Activity Day. The childminder is a competent face painter and the children delight in showing photographs where they are made up, these activities encourage children's imaginative play.

Children have regular opportunities to socialise, they often go out together with other childminders and their minded children and attend a toddler group. They visit farms and parks together and are learning about the wider world.

The children relate well to the childminder and their peers, this ensures they are making good progress through appropriate care and interaction. They are talked to kindly, giving them the confidence to express their feelings and ask for help when

they need it.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder actively promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children; she has resources that reflect our multi-cultural society positively. She has good knowledge of the children's individual personality traits and takes this into consideration when caring for them. The children that attend are valued and respected as individuals.

The childminder is aware that some children may have special needs and is proactive in ensuring that appropriate action is taken when such a child is identified or admitted to the provision. Children with special needs are included and the childminder promotes their welfare and development.

The childminder delights in children's achievements; they are given lots of praise, encouragement and attention that encourages desired behaviour. The children are consequently happy and well behaved. Children understand what is expected of them; the boundaries are consistently applied and this promotes their welfare and development.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet the needs of the children. She records relevant information to enable her to provide an appropriate and personalised service. Parents are kept well informed about their child's progress and the childminder shares many photographs with them. This results in children having the opportunity to discuss with their parents what they have been doing and what they have enjoyed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is dedicated to her work and takes it seriously, however, she has adult children who live with her and she has overlooked them having a criminal records bureau check.

The childminder keeps all the required records confidentially for the efficient and safe management of the provision and to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children.

There is a routine to the day that the children are familiar with helping them to feel secure. The childminder plans activities and children regularly go on outings to a variety of interesting destinations. The outings are well planned and they provide a range of learning opportunities.

The childminder understands the importance of confidentiality and a good working relationship with parents. Parents provide detailed information about their child to ensure the childminder can provide an appropriate service. They provide telephone

numbers for emergency contact.

The childminder has a written service statement that provides parents with limited information about the service. There is no written information for parents about the childminder's procedures for sick children or a complaints procedure. Her preferred method for exchanging information is verbally. She ensures parents are kept well informed about their child's progress.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the daily register includes the times of arrival and departure. This has been addressed.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- write a complaints procedure that includes Ofsted's details
- improve the information available for parents about your policy and procedures for sick children
- ensure all adults in the household are checked by the criminal records bureau

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