



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY216754
Inspection date	02 February 2006
Inspector	Lisa Toole
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 2002. She lives with her husband and three children aged 11, 7 and 4 years in Edenbridge, Kent. The ground floor and one first floor bedroom of the premises is used for childminding. There is a rear garden for outdoor play. The family have a dog, two cats, a guinea pig and a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time and is currently minding five children of both pre-school and school age on a part-time basis. The childminder takes children to local play groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment and the childminder follows good hygiene practices to promote children's health and well-being. These include thorough nappy changing procedures, ensuring toys are clean and suitable for the children's use, and encouraging and supporting children with regular hand washing to reduce risks of infection. There are appropriate procedures in place should a child be taken ill; and she has a current first aid certificate in place. However, she does not maintain the accident and medication records as accurately as possible; and has not obtained written consent to see emergency medical treatment, in order to care for children appropriately should they have a serious accident.

The childminder prepares nutritious meals for children and supplements these with a healthy range of snacks that appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. Children are able to ask for drinks throughout the day, and they are encouraged to have regular refreshments to ensure they are sufficiently hydrated throughout the day.

Children have a good relationship with the childminder, who is responsive to their emotional needs. They have regular opportunities for physical play, both in and outdoors in the garden, or on local walks and outings. The childminder offers good support to younger children who are beginning to discover how to control their own movements, gaining physical skills appropriate to their stage of development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a warm and welcoming play environment, which is maintained to a high standard, and they are encouraged to explore and move around freely. There is a wide range of safe, good quality, developmentally appropriate resources that are organised to ensure they are easily accessible to children, to encourage independence and freedom of choice.

The childminder talks to children about safety issues which encourages them to gain an understanding of the world around them. She has an understanding of potential hazards, and the majority have been made safe in the home in order to keep children protected. However, the current storage of alcohol in the dining room means that it is accessible to children and compromises their safety. There are clear procedures in place for outings that ensure children's safety is paramount.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a secure understanding of her role and responsibilities with regards to child protection. She is aware of the signs and symptoms of abuse; has a clear understanding of the procedures to follow should she have any cause for concern; and has informed parents of her duties regarding child protection to ensure children in her care are appropriately protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and settled in the childminder's care. They approach the childminder for support, indicating good relationships are built, and benefit from her caring and protective nature. This ensures they can feel comfortable and valued whilst helping to increase their confidence and develop their personal and social skills.

Children have access to a variety of activities and experiences both at the childminder's home and from attending local toddler groups; visits to nearby Hever Castle; and the local library. Children benefit from frequent interaction with the childminder to help develop their early communication skills. As a result, children are confident in expressing their feelings to the childminder so that she is able to understand them, and meet their individual needs accordingly.

Children are able to make decisions, explore and investigate, relate to others, and are involved, interested and enjoy their play. The childminder spends valuable time sitting on the floor engaged with the children, responding to them with interest and supporting their learning in all areas of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with respect and are made to feel good about themselves while in the childminder's care. They have access to an appropriate range of resources that promote equality and reflect positive images of diversity. The childminder has limited experience of caring for children with special needs; she has an open and receptive understanding of how she would work closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's individual needs were met; and would adapt activities to ensure that all children were able to participate.

Clear behavioural boundaries are in place that help children learn right from wrong, and children are encouraged to use good manners. She offers children praise and encouragement to help increase their confidence and self-esteem, and would not hesitate to discuss any concerns or changes in behaviour with a child's parents.

Parents are kept appropriately informed about their child's day through verbal and written feedback. This helps the childminder develop trusting relationships with parents and ensures that information is shared regularly in order to meet children's individual needs. The childminder also makes good use of a notice-board to inform parents of the activities she will be doing with the children, particularly during school holidays.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most of the required documentation that contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and is accurately maintained; with the exception of written consent for emergency medical treatment and too little detail recorded in the accident and medication records.

Children benefit from the well organised space, activities and resources on offer. They receive appropriate adult support to help them feel secure and confident in the childminder's care, and she is friendly and caring towards the minded children.

The childminder has attended the required training and children benefit from this, as she has a secure knowledge and understanding of child development and the kinds of activities to provide for children of varying ages. She ensures that children are protected from people that are not vetted, and has a good understanding of her childminding role and responsibilities.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was set one recommendation. This related to increasing her knowledge and understanding of child protection. The childminder has since increased her knowledge and understanding of child protection and her responsibilities by completing a relevant training course.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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):

- ensure that that all documentation is in place and is accurately maintained
- ensure that any hazards, regarding the storage of alcohol are made inaccessible to ensure the children's safety.

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