



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY220795
Inspection date	01 February 2006
Inspector	Linda Patricia Coccia

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 2002. She lives with her husband and 3 children, all aged under 8 years in Minster, Isle of Sheppey. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 3 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children aged between 5 and 8 years who attend before and after school and sometimes in the school holidays. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a pet dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children benefit from the childminder's effective written sick child policy. It is shared with parents so that they know exactly what will happen if their child is taken ill. Parents give individual written permissions for emergency medical treatment, the administration of medication and sun creams, going on outings and transporting children in the car. Children are cared for according to their parents' requirements.

Children are offered a varied, healthy diet. The childminder works closely with parents to provide good quality fresh food, snacks and drinks. Enthusiastically, the children told the inspector how they participate in the preparation of vegetables for dinner and participate in cooking activities, making small cakes and biscuits. They thoroughly enjoy this activity. Children learn to eat healthily, have choices about the foods they eat and successfully participate in food preparation.

Children benefit from regular physical exercise as there is a good range of physical play equipment available both in the garden and indoors. Some of them attend weekly swimming lessons. During summer months and during school holiday periods children take regular walks to local parks with the childminder and have planned days out. Children enjoy physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are able to move around freely on the ground floor of the premises. There is plenty of free floor space for children to spread themselves out in. The premises are light and airy and well decorated. The equipment being used is suitable and appropriate. High chairs, cots, car seats and such like, all conform to safety standards. Children use safe and appropriate equipment.

The childminder has a well thought emergency evacuation procedure which she has discussed with the children, however they have not had the opportunity to practise it. The children are kept safe in the car when off the premises with the childminder. She takes identification for the children, with her on each trip so that in an emergency, the children are easily identified as child-minded children.

Children are kept safe from harm and neglect as the childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues, which are discussed with parents. Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure that children are safely collected by persons other than their parents. Children's well being is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. They are treated as individuals and their individual abilities are well catered for by the use of age appropriate, good quality toys and activities. The only area which lacks equipment is home role play and although this does not detract too much from children's enjoyment it is a minor weakness. All the children play happily, together or alone. They dip in and out of each others play and they all make allowances for the childminder's own younger children who like to get involved.

The children told the inspector they really enjoy their time at the childminder's house. They are allowed to choose any activities they want to play with or just 'chill out'. They talk to the childminder as if she were their big sister and eagerly share home news with her.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children use a range of suitable toys which show positive images of race, disability and gender. The childminder also makes children aware of each other's individual needs through discussion for example talking about children who wear glasses and why they need them, ensuring that children learn about each other's differences and needs.

The children are very friendly, well behaved, polite and generally considerate to each other. The behaviour management procedures are used to good effect as the children discuss their behaviour with the childminder and they learn about what is or is not acceptable. Children play within set boundaries.

Children benefit from the childminder working in partnership with their parents. The childminder's service statement is very well written and covers a multitude of information which encourages parents to work with her to provide a warm and friendly atmosphere for the children. They help her complete her paperwork appropriately. Information is exchanged verbally at the end of each day. Children benefit from continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder and her husband have been thoroughly vetted and she makes her Criminal Record Bureau check available for parents to see. She has completed a childminding course prior to being registered. Her paediatric first aid certificate has expired but she is booked onto the next available local course.

The childminder has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child. Her attendance register is marked daily and all relevant paperwork is shared with parents.

The childminder has completed a service contract with parents which is regularly reviewed. Children's records are confidential and stored appropriately. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has acted upon on a previous recommendation to review her service statement and include more information regarding the service provided. She now has a well written statement which allows parents to make an informed choice for their children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report 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 children have the opportunity to practice the emergency evacuation procedures.
- ensure that dolls and home role play equipment is made available for children.

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