



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY305446
Inspection date	27 February 2006
Inspector	Linda Margaret Nicholls

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged under 5 in Dartford. The whole of the home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 part time. The childminder walks to local schools, attends the local pre school, and takes children to the local library and park. The family has two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a growing understanding of the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines reinforced with a simple explanation from the childminder. They know to keep their hands clean to avoid illness.

Children develop positive attitudes to exercise because the childminder ensures an active healthy lifestyle with daily walks to and from school. Indoor activities include dancing to music or a TV exercise programme. Children play safely in the lower two levels of the garden whenever the weather permits. Children know when to relax during their stay, they go to the childminder for hugs and cuddles, or lay on the sofa for a rest.

Children's likes and dislikes are taken into consideration when preparing snacks and light lunches. Parents provide information of their children's preferences and discuss their requirements at an initial interview. Children make their own choices for breakfast and for lunch. However, there is only a modest attempt to introduce children to a wide range of fruits and vegetables. Drinks, including water, are made available at all times.

Children who have an infection do not attend which prevents the spread of contagious ailments. Parents are effectively informed and prepared well for emergencies, such as when children are taken ill or there is a serious accident. Contact numbers are held and carried at all times. Parental permission to seek emergency advice or treatment is in place.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children and adults are welcomed into an organised and well ordered home. The living space and comfortable modern furnishings provide clear uncluttered play space. Children move freely and play safely with easy access to toys and resources appropriate to their age. There is good natural light and ventilation. The premises and equipment are well maintained.

Children make independent choices from a range of toys and equipment including shape sorters, puzzles, battery powered toys and craft materials. The childminder regularly checks play equipment for repair or replacement.

Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous, such as cleaning liquids and powders, because the childminder regularly checks for risks and hazards. Children select accessible resources from floor level toy boxes and open shelving. The childminder reminds children to clear away one activity before starting another to keep themselves safe from trips or falls. The home is secure and children know the sound of the smoke alarm.

Fire safety recommendations are in place and an exit plan has been thought through. Public liability insurance is current.

Children feel cared for and secure as they are closely supervised at all times both in the home and at outside venues. They move freely from room to room and go to the childminder for close contact when they need it.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a basic understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She is confident of the procedure to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care. Local contact numbers are held and parents are verbally informed of her professional role when they first place a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are stimulated, supported and make lively progress in their individual development. They happily interact with the childminder directly engaging her in requests to use a toy which blows material butterfly shapes into the air. They link their play with other experiences, such as decorating and sticking shapes to a pre-cut card butterfly shape.

Children's work is praised by the childminder who listens patiently and values what they say. They talk about bigger and smaller butterflies. The childminder provides opportunities to imaginatively reinforce what they know and to explore themes in a variety of materials.

Children have appropriate self-control and understanding of right and wrong. They know the ground rules, to care for and consider younger children. They clear away toys to prevent falls, because the childminder reinforces the home rules with appropriate explanation. Children learn to respect each other and develop self control.

The childminder has a firm understanding of how children learn. She is aware of the need to encourage the development of clear communication skills and to adapt activities to children's individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and allowed to feel good about themselves as the childminder has an understanding and positive attitude towards physical and cultural diversity. She encourages children to acknowledge differences and similarities and provides a modest range of equipment, such as books, dolls, videos and small world figures, for them to explore their ideas of a wider world from a safe environment. Family preferences and individual requirements are recorded and discussed to provide consistency of care.

Activities and resources are provided to meet children's individual needs. The childminder is aware of her role to support parents and families with additional needs.

Children are learning to respect others, to control themselves and to behave appropriately because the childminder ensures basic ground rules are consistently applied. Children are encouraged to care for those younger than themselves and explanations are given for behaviour which is not tolerated. Discussion of behaviour management methods are undertaken at the first interview with parents, and a record of incidents will be maintained when necessary.

All relevant information is gathered and held securely. A written agreement and children's details are recorded. Parents provide information of their family preferences and children's personal requirements. Medical details and information is recorded. Written permissions and consents are held and daily information is exchanged ensuring potential concerns are resolved immediately. The childminder has informed parents of her complaints procedure and the requirement to keep a record of complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children show an established self confidence and a sense of belonging in an organised and welcoming home. They demonstrate contentment and secure levels of wellbeing. Children are stimulated and engaged because activities are adapted to meet their individual needs. The childminder has completed an Introducing Childcare Practice course and a first aid for children and babies course. The registration document is displayed. The childminder has a good understanding of legal requirements, qualifications and the certification needed. Records and documents are securely held and readily available for inspection. The childminder is aware of the need to inform parents and the registering body of any changes to her circumstances that may affect the welfare of the children. 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 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):

- continue to develop children's understanding of the importance of a healthy diet and exercise.

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