



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY234060
Inspection date	09 June 2005
Inspector	Janette Mary White

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 2003. She lives with her family in Rainham, Gillingham, Kent. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. She is a member of an approved childminding network. There is no current evidence for the care of children with special needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with experiences to help promote their knowledge and understanding of being healthy. The childminder encourages children to be independent, for example pouring raisins into individual bowls and washing hands after going to the toilet. Children's medication and accident records are signed by parents but the childminder has not maintained a record of existing injuries. Children initiate outdoor play themselves, which in turn promotes their physical development and sense of well being. They enjoy the freedom and space to play outside, which is encouraged by the childminder who supervises closely, for example when playing on the slide and trampoline. The childminder has not ensured parents give written permission to seek emergency treatment or advice on behalf of their child.

Children have access to drinks at all times. They can ask or are offered drinks regularly. Children talk about what they like to eat and drink and are encouraged to make healthy choices from what is on offer. This is because the childminder ensures healthy options are available before offering any treats. Young children display appropriate attention indicating they need help, a drink or a rest. Children have an understanding of why they must wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Although there is a risk of cross infection as the children all share the same towel.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and stimulating environment. There is plenty of space for all children to move around, make independent choices and play freely within safe boundaries. The childminder ensures risks are competently assessed and reduced accordingly. Even very young children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe because the childminder takes time to talk to them and help them understand why certain procedures are necessary, for example why they should not touch the cooker in the kitchen and why it is important to wait for the childminder when they use the trampoline or slide.

Children independently select activities from a good range of toys and equipment. The childminder carefully monitors their choice to ensure they are appropriate for the child's age and stage of development. Toys are organised and enable children to freely choose from the varied selection. Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted as the required procedures and documents are in place, for example the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder's knowledge and understanding of the child protection procedure and who to contact on the child's behalf is limited.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children quickly settle and make themselves at home in the childminder's house. They show a great sense of confidence and self esteem and enjoy choosing from a range of readily available activities and experiences. Toys and resources are easily accessible to all children. These include books, games and puzzles, which include some positive images of the wider world.

Children show great pride in their achievements, because the childminder takes time to talk to them and praise them for their efforts. She encourages them to care for the resources on offer and to help tidy them away, for example moving the pushchairs and bikes in order to make room for the slide. Children benefit from lots of close contact with the childminder, as she spends time talking and playing with them.

Children play purposefully and are able to make connections between real life scenarios and their play, such as example making a cake with stickle bricks and singing happy birthday. This is imaginatively promoted by the childminder as she carefully uses questions to extend their play. Children have many opportunities to be creative when using resources such as the art and craft opportunities. Children pictures and work is displayed in the kitchen giving them a sense of achievement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are acknowledged, affirmed and respected as individuals and treated with equal concern by the childminder. They demonstrate a sense of belonging and are confident enough to initiate communication and offer their own ideas. Children are provided with a range of toys, resources and experiences, some of which promote positive images of equality. The childminder extends their knowledge through a varied range of activities and children learn about their local community on outings to local parks and parent and toddler groups. The childminder has not ensured that parents have given written permission to seek emergency treatment or advice on behalf of their child.

Children have opportunities to learn about themselves and one another because the childminder listens and takes time to talk to children. They feel secure and benefit from consistency of care, which is achieved by the childminder and parents working together. Although information to enable children's appropriate care is not discussed with the parents in order to ensure their individual needs are met. Children are well behaved because they understand the behavioural boundaries set by the childminder and respond well to frequent praise and encouragement.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and settled within a generally well organised environment. They feel secure and at ease with the childminder and their surroundings. As a result, they make themselves at home, lead in their play and are not afraid to ask for what

they need. The childminder has experience of working with children of all ages and abilities.

The registration certificate is clearly displayed for parents and the daily attendance records contain clear arrival and departure times for children. Children's welfare, care and learning are sufficiently promoted through effective policies and procedures. Although the childminder has not informed Ofsted of changes and does not keep a record of visitors. The policies and procedures are shared with parents to keep them informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. The needs of all the children are met well.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has increased the range of toy and equipment in order to promote equality of opportunity and reflect diversity of society. Smoke alarms are provided at every level of the house and are maintained in working condition.

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):

- ensure good hygiene practices are in place in order to prevent the risk of cross infection.
- obtain written permission from parents for transporting children in a vehicle and to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

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