



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY224945
Inspection date	13 March 2006
Inspector	Carol Ann Jeffrey

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 has been registered since September 2002. She lives with her husband and their 2 children aged 4 and 7 years in Borough Green, which is in Sevenoaks, Kent. Public transport, parks, shops, schools and pre-schools are all within easy walking distance.

All of the property is included in the registration. The areas mainly used by the minded children include the lounge, hallway and the dining room. There is an upstairs toilet and wash hand basin, and sleep/rest facilities are provided in the children's bedrooms. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

Family pets include a cat and 2 gerbils.

The childminder is registered to care for 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 8 children, all of whom attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle and participate in a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. There are regular opportunities for the children to enjoy fresh air and exercise, for example, walking in the local parks and open spaces. The garden is very well equipped with a variety of climbing apparatus and wheeled toys, which helps children to develop their physical skills, spatial awareness and co-ordination. Children's fine motor skills are developing well. They are competent when selecting and using small equipment such as play dough, shape cutters, scissors, colouring pencils and crayons.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. From an early age, they gain good self-care skills, such as hand washing after coming in from the garden or using the toilet. Children sleep in line with their current needs and parents' wishes. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and demonstrates a good awareness of the correct procedures to be followed for recording accidents and medication. Written parental consents to seek emergency medical treatment or advice are not currently in place.

Children develop healthy eating habits from a young age. They enjoy nutritious and well balanced meals and have good access to drinks throughout the day. The childminder discusses sample menus with prospective parents, and takes account of the children's special dietary requirements and allergies. Children benefit from a variety of fruit and vegetables and are regularly introduced to new tastes and textures. They experience the delight in picking some of their own home grown fruit such as strawberries. Young children are given good opportunities to feed themselves which helps to develop their independence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. Appropriate safety precautions are in place to minimise the risk of accidents. Children benefit from a well organised and child orientated environment. They have plenty of space to move freely between the rooms, and this promotes their independence and self help skills.

Children have access to a range of good quality, developmentally appropriate resources and equipment which are checked regularly to ensure their safety. Children learn about safe practices because the childminder skilfully explains the

safety rules to them, and is aware of her responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

Children learn about keeping safe on the roads, for example, during walks to the local shops and parks. Children are gaining some awareness of fire safety through books and role play, however, emergency escape plans are not currently practised with the children.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder gives high priority to maintaining children's safety, for example, by supervising them at all times. All of the required documents and procedures are in place to ensure that the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. The childminder has a clear understanding of her role in child protection and these procedures are shared with the parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident within the setting and feel at home and part of the family. The childminder effectively supports the children's individual needs, taking into account their different ages and stages of development. Children are given choice, enabling them to feel fully involved in the day to day activities.

Children benefit from socialising with their peers during regular outings to places of interest, such as parks, farms, local shops, library, toddler groups and soft play areas. Outings such as these promote their learning, aid their social development and stimulate their interest in the wider world.

Children enjoy a good range of play resources and activities, all of which are easily accessible to the children to encourage independent learning. They are interested in the activities available and spend time concentrating on self-chosen activities, such as playing together with the well equipped play kitchen and participating in threading and sewing activities. The children regularly participate in outdoor activities such as climbing, jumping, riding bikes and playing with sand and water. They have opportunities to participate in creative and messy play activities on a regular basis.

Children have regular opportunities to play games and to learn about shapes, letters and numbers using a range of good quality resources, including puzzles, games, books, and building materials. They enjoy dressing up and taking part in role play activities. The childminder interacts in a positive way to introduce new ideas, encourage conversation and support and extend all areas of the children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and their individual needs are met because the childminder spends time getting to know them well. Children are confident and at ease with the childminder and feel safe and secure in a friendly, welcoming and stimulating environment. The childminder works closely with the parents to identify the children's

likes and dislikes and relevant information is shared to ensure that all children receive individual care and attention. Comprehensive written policies and procedures are in place, and information is shared verbally and in written format with parents on a daily basis.

The daily routine is well planned. Children's ideas and their likes and dislikes are taken into consideration when planning activities and outings. The children benefit from socialising with their peers during interesting and varied visits and outings.

Children are very well behaved and occupied. They respond appropriately to the expectations of the childminder because of the good relationships fostered. The childminder's good use of praise and encouragement builds the children's self esteem.

Children are increasing their awareness of the wider society by having access to a range of play resources and opportunities. They visit the local shops and some festivals and celebrations are incorporated into the daily activity planning. The childminder has a good range of play resources that positively reflect areas of equality, and she ensures that the children have a choice of play materials and opportunities, regardless of gender, culture or ability.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel relaxed and at home in the well organised environment and this enables them to gain confidence and to become independent. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child development and the way in which children learn. Space, equipment and resources are very well organised to meet the individual needs of the children cared for. The home environment is welcoming and child orientated, and the daily routine helps children to feel secure and comfortable in the childminder's care.

The settling in period is discussed with parents to meet the children's individual needs. Documents are effectively organised, accessible, up to date and confidentially maintained. Comprehensive written policies and procedures are in place and are shared with parents. Parents are kept well informed about their children's day and of the care provided. The childminder efficiently organises documentation to underpin the safe management of the service provided.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to consider ways of screening off an area around the tent in the grounds of the camp site to ensure children's safety. This is no longer relevant as the childminder has moved address. She was also asked to ensure that children have access to a wider range of multi-cultural toys. The childminder has purchased books, play people, puzzles, play food and costumes which positively reflect areas of equality, and also uses the library to supplement her

resources. She was also asked to ensure that the plastic table cloth on the dining room table is made safe, and she has done so by removing it.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment/advice
- improve fire safety procedures by practising an emergency escape plan with the 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