



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	125700
Inspection date	22 May 2006
Inspector	Vanessa Wood
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 1996. She lives with her husband and three school aged children and a lodger in a house in Tunbridge Wells. The family room and the upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part time basis. She walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children.

The family have three cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about personal hygiene through well organised and established routines. They wash their hands before eating and after using the bathroom. They have access to individual clean towels to prevent the spread of infection. Children benefit from freshly cooked meals in the evening and healthy options for snacks, such as toast, fruit and raisins. Parents provide packed lunches with a drink although children can ask for a drink at any time during the day. Each child's dietary information is used to provide appropriate food to meet individual requirements. Children have good opportunities for physical exercise as they walk to and from school everyday. They also enjoy visits to the local park where younger children can play on the swings and older children can play football. During the school holidays the childminder takes them to a larger park where there is more scope for different outdoor activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a well organised, welcoming environment where they can move around freely and safely. They can independently select what they want to play with from a range of easily accessible toys and resources. These are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Risks in the home and outdoors have been identified and minimised and there is a clear procedure for evacuating the home in an emergency. The children are supervised at all times to ensure their safety. Children benefit from clear explanations about road safety and the importance of holding hands and keeping close to the childminder when out. The childminder has a reasonable knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures which promotes the children's well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident and at ease in the childminder's home because she creates friendly relationships with them. They settle easily and access their own toys and play materials from the wide range of toys on offer. The childminder responds positively to children, sharing games with them and supporting their play, for example by helping the toddler understand how the tape measure works. She takes pleasure in the children's achievements such as writing their name on drawings using joined up writing and offers appropriate praise for their success which helps build their self-esteem. However, the childminder does not plan activities to ensure all areas of learning are developed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well because the childminder gives them lots of praise and encouragement for things well done and provides a happy home environment. They understand the expectations

of the childminder and have access to well organised, age appropriate play resources which keep them occupied. The childminder exchanges information with parents before children attend in order to establish their individual needs. Children are treated with respect and valued as individuals. Children have access to an appropriate range of resources that reflect today's society, therefore developing a positive understanding of people's differences. Caring and flexible arrangements between the family and the childminder result in a long term durable relationship for children. The childminder ensures that all information to support children's care is exchanged with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home because the childminder organises play spaces to meet their needs. They are protected from unvetted persons because she supervises them carefully at all times. The childminder understands the need for confidentiality and stores children's personal details discreetly to protect their privacy. All the required documentation is in place, although the childminder does not have policy statements on the service she provides. Therefore parents are not fully informed about her service.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There are two recommendations from the last inspection about providing more resources on cultural diversity and providing more play opportunities. Both recommendations have been met.

The childminder has a book which covers celebrations from different cultures. She uses this to introduce children to understand the wider world. Children of all ages benefit from the range of resources that offer stimulating play experiences. The childminder spends time talking to the children about what they are doing and supporting their play.

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.

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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):

- consider having written plans to show how children will experience all areas of learning
- provide written policy statements to fully inform parents of the service you provide

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