



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126476
Inspection date	18 July 2006
Inspector	Beth Kingsland
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 satisfactory. 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 1994. She lives with her husband and three children aged five, twelve and fifteen in Faversham, Kent. The whole ground floor 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 three children at any one time and is currently minding four children on a rota basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends a local parent/toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is appropriately maintained as the childminder has completed relevant first aid training and deals with accidents effectively recording and sharing information appropriately with parents. Children's health requirements are known and the childminder implements effective procedures to administer medication to children, ensuring they remain healthy. However, children's health is not assured in an emergency situation because written consent has not been obtained from parents to seek emergency medical treatment.

Children begin to gain an understanding of how to look after their bodies, for example they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before meal times. However, the childminder has not introduced hygienic nappy changing routines, as a result, children are not protected from the risk of cross infection. Children's dietary requirements are fully met as the childminder serves all meals provided by children's individual parents. Children receive regular snacks, such as biscuits or pieces of fruit from the childminder, which helps them begin to gain an understanding of healthy eating. They benefit from daily opportunities to engage in physical activities and enjoy opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. Children develop their co-ordination and climbing and balancing skills using equipment, such as the climbing frame and slide in the local park and by attending a local gym club. This helps them understand the importance of taking regular exercise as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is ensured because effective procedures are implemented to ensure the provision is regularly checked, kept clean and well maintained, which contributes to ensuring children's safety. Children are well protected and safe guarded from harm because the childminder has an appropriate understanding of her role with regards to child protection issues. She has completed training in this area and is aware of the different types of abuse, recognising possible signs and symptoms that may cause concern. The childminder has an appropriate understanding of the records required to be kept and knows the procedures to follow should she be concerned about a child in her care ensuring their wellbeing is promoted. Effective systems are in place to ensure the safe arrival and collection of children, which ensures their safety is not compromised.

Children are generally protected inside the childminder's home and garden, for example, plug sockets and dangerous substances are inaccessible and the childminder accompanies the children while they play outside. However, the childminder has not ensured that all identified risks and hazards to children are removed, including making medication inaccessible and removing hazards in the garden. For example, cold remedies and vitamin tablets were left on a low shelf and within the garden, logs of wood are stacked unevenly, posing a threat to children.

Children have satisfactory opportunities to participate in a range of activities and experiences and the space made available to them is generally appropriate. They have independent access

to a suitable and safe range of equipment and play provision, which is suited to their ages and stages of development. The children gain an understanding of keeping themselves safe, for example, the childminder talks to them about how to cross roads safely when on outings and visits to the park.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop warm trusting relationships with the childminder and enjoy their time in her care. They are happy and content, for example, children snuggle up for a cuddle and enjoy looking at books with the childminder. They develop their senses using a range of play equipment and children enjoy opportunities to be imaginative and creative using a range of construction materials and equipment such as dolls and cars to express their real and imagined ideas.

Interaction between children and the childminder is generally positive and she is skilled in supporting the older children within her care. Older children were observed to skilfully communicate with the childminder and each other. Older children benefit because the childminder recognises the importance of play in a child's development and provides a good range of activities and experiences, which are suitable to their individual ages and stages of development. Older children's understanding of shape, number, colours and letters is re-enforced as the childminder uses a good range of books, puzzles and games, and encourages them to develop their independence as they select their own equipment making their own decisions about what they want to play with. Support for babies is satisfactory. The childminder has an appropriate knowledge of child development, however, during the inspection opportunities to help young babies to acquire new skills were not observed. Although babies are happy and contented the childminder plans an insufficient range of suitable activities which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs.

Older children have plenty of opportunities to develop their social skills and play alongside other young children as they attend a toddler group, enabling them to develop an understanding of sharing, taking turns and securing relationships with their peers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop secure relationships with the childminder. She actively promotes positive behaviour, which impacts on children's confidence and self esteem and the relationships they build with one another. Children begin to gain an understanding about the similarities and differences between themselves and others, as the childminder encourages them to value themselves and their peers gaining an understanding about diversity. For example, discussions with the childminder, planned activities and the use of stories and resources reflecting diversity help children to learn about different customs and cultures.

All children are valued and their individual needs are generally met. Children benefit from secure informal relationships between the childminder and their parents enabling them to settle well and feel self assured. Detailed information is exchanged verbally, including details about what

children have eaten, activities they have been involved in and trips out ensuring parents are well informed about what their child has been involved in on a daily basis. Parents are well informed about the service the childminder provides.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is able to show that all adults living at the setting have undergone checks to establish their suitability. The attendance register confirms that the childminder complies with the conditions of her registration. All the required documentation required for the safe and efficient management of the setting and for the welfare and care of children is maintained, however the childminder has not obtained permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. The daily routine is balanced to include, quiet times, active times, rest, meals and outings. As a result, the children are secure and settled in the care of the childminder. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that the full names of children are included in the attendance register. This procedure is now implemented, and records of children's attendance are accurate and detailed.

She was also asked to ensure the garden is safe and suitable for children. The childminder immediately ensured that the identified hazards were addressed. However, since the last inspection other potential hazards have been identified and the childminder has not ensured that these have been removed. As a result children's safety is compromised.

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 satisfactory. 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
- ensure hygienic nappy changing routines are adopted to prevent the spread of infection
- ensure that all identified risks to children are removed, including making medication inaccessible and removing hazards in the garden
- plan and provide a suitable range of activities for babies, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs.

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