



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126633
Inspection date	09 May 2006
Inspector	Melissa Tickner
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 1989. She lives with her husband in Tunbridge Wells, 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 six children at any one time and is currently minding five children after school, one of whom is under eight. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Tunbridge Wells Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have a strong awareness of being healthy. They wash their hands unprompted and remember why they have to do this before helping to prepare food. The childminder has clear systems in place to avoid the spread of infection such as regularly washing her hands and use of different chopping boards for different foods. Children thoroughly enjoy the variety of healthy meals and food and helping to prepare these. For example during the inspection, the children enjoy creating French bread pizzas and enjoy this with fresh carrot and cucumber pieces. The childminder promotes healthy eating and has systems in place to introduce healthier foods such as making vegetable soup to encourage children to taste and enjoy vegetables. This ensures children are well nourished and developing an understanding of healthy eating. Children are offered a drink when they come in from school and know to help themselves to the jug of water at other times. This helps ensure they remain hydrated. Children enjoy a good range of physical play opportunities. They walk to and from school and enjoy outdoor play such as playing in the garden and frequent outings, such as the local park. As a result, they are developing a sense of enjoyment of physical play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to access and choose from a good range of toys and resources set up in the dining room and conservatory areas. Many are visible and accessible to children to encourage them to make their own choices; others can be accessed with support from the childminder. Children are cared for in a welcoming home environment which is safe and well organised to meet their needs. They are supervised well and their safety is promoted in practice. For example, the childminder reminds them to be careful when eating hot food. Children also practise fire drills to ensure their safety in the event of a fire. Children present during the inspection talk with confidence about what they would need to do in the event of a fire. As a result children are carefully safeguarded in the childminder's care. Children are kept safe through the childminder's clear systems for keeping them safe on outings, and when playing in the garden. The childminder has a clear knowledge and understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow should she develop concerns. As a result, children's welfare and well-being is promoted by the childminder at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and settled in the childminders care because she welcomes them and has developed good relationships with them. They chat confidently about the activities that are their favourites, such as playing with Lego, trips to the park and cooking activities. Their needs are met well by the childminder, who encourages activities to follow their interests. For example children recently found a blue bottle fly - they then used the magnifier to examine it and used books to look it up. Children are enthusiastic and absorbed in their activities. For example, they

thoroughly enjoy helping to prepare the French bread pizza and building and constructing with Lego. They have their own shelf to store their work, paintings and their possessions. Children are settled and confident in the childminder's care, who is aware of the needs of children being cared for after school, and gives time for rests and playing quietly as well as supporting children in their chosen activities and homework. She recognises that older children enjoy playing together and independently but also happily enjoys supporting them when they wish. This helps children to enjoy and achieve throughout their time with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for well as individuals. The childminder encourages and includes children in all activities and helps them to feel valued and important. Children are confident and settled in the childminder's home. There are a reasonable range of resources promoting diversity, for example books, jigsaws and games. These help teach children about the diversity of our society. The childminder has a wealth of experience in caring for children with special needs and has attended training such as autism training and British sign language. The childminder has worked with a number of children with special needs and their families and demonstrates a good awareness of issues to consider, so contributing to being able to meet their needs well.

Children behave well and have good manners. The childminder encourages this through use of praise, encouragement of good manners, sharing and use of clear explanations. The childminder manages behaviour issues with reasonable and age appropriate expectations. Children are clear about good behaviour, and this helps contribute to building their self-esteem and confidence. There are effective systems to work with parents. They are worked with closely, and happy with their children's care. Positive references from parents support this. Parents of young children are offered a contact book when their children first start, and are provided with a good range of information such as the service statement and policies. The childminder works closely with parents of older children and communicates with them daily. These aspects help ensure children's needs can be met and parents are able to receive a full range of information about their children's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder works from a well organised home, which meets children's needs appropriately. The childminder has most required documentation in place, which is well organised and includes a full range of policies and a service statement. Documentation regarding complaints now needs to refer to and incorporate recent legislative changes, and all required permissions must be implemented. The childminder has attended a good range of courses on a regular basis to ensure she updates her knowledge and skills. For example training courses have been completed in language learning, child behaviour and child protection. The childminder also keeps an updated action plan which identifies areas she wants to implement and develop. The paperwork is up to date, confidential and stored appropriately. The childminder maintains an organised approach to her minding. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was not set any recommendations at the last inspection but has developed her paperwork to ensure she has a good range of documentation including policies and child record forms for each child.

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):

- ensure the required consent forms are in place and documentation refers to recent legislative changes

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