



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	126903
Inspection date	27 June 2006
Inspector	Mary Van De Peer
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 1999. She lives with her family in Kennington, Ashford, Kent. Most areas of the house are used for minding children. 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 and is currently minding three children. She walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local Parent and Toddler Group. The family has several rabbits and a dog. The childminder can support children with special educational needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean home with a welcoming environment. They are learning the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must

wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet helps reduce the risk of cross contamination. Parents give individual written permissions for the administration of medication and sun creams. Accident records are in place and the childminder has attended a recognised first aid course. Children are cared for according to their parent's requirements. Children's parents supply all of their meals and snacks. The childminder encourages children to eat nutritious foods and provides children with fruit and water. The childminder works well with parents in this area. Children learn about healthy eating. Children benefit from regular physical exercise as there is a range of physical play equipment available both in the garden and indoors. They take regular walks to toddler clubs and local parks with the childminder. Children enjoy the physical exercise. They are also able to rest when they need to.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have access to the downstairs and garden area of the childminder's home. The house is safe and child-friendly, so that children can move around freely and independently. They can select activities from a range of stimulating toys and equipment which meet safety standards. The childminder has discussed an emergency evacuation procedure with the children. The childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. The environment is secure and suitable for children to play in. The childminder has procedures and documents in place to help ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. However, her knowledge of local child protection procedures lacks some detail.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. Their individual requirements are well catered for by the use of age-appropriate toys and activities. Many of these resources are stored at children's height so they can make choices in their play. Children are confident, relate well to each other, in spite of their age difference. They can also socialise with other children of a similar age through regular visits to local toddler clubs. They achieve well because the childminder is caring, professional and has a sound understanding of how young children develop. She also uses the Birth to three matters framework for guidance when she needs to. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to resolve their own conflicts. They are well behaved and thoughtful towards each other. A sound behaviour management strategy is in place which enables children to consider other children around them, share toys and play well together. There are only limited resources which show positive images of race, culture, disability or gender, however, this is beginning to help children learn about each other's differences and needs. Younger children know the rules regarding the use of toys and equipment. All children are listened to sympathetically by the childminder when they voice their opinions. The childminder has

developed good partnerships with parents. She shares relevant information with them on a daily basis. Children benefit from continuity of care between the childminder and their parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has been registered for several years and is an experienced child carer. She has acceptable levels of paperwork completed on each child. However, the register lacks some important detail. The childminder acknowledges that she could provide more written information about her service for parents. Nonetheless, she has completed a service contract with them which is regularly reviewed. Documentation is confidential and stored appropriately. A care diary and informal discussion with parents ensures continuity of care for the children. The childminder has a flexible daily routine allowing children time for quiet and active play. Information kept about children is relevant and helps promote their welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has followed the previous recommendation to improve the child care service she provides. She was recommended to complete an appropriate first aid course that included training in first aid for infants and young children. The childminder completed this in 2003 and is aware that this requires re-doing later this year.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- ensure children's arrival and departure times are accurately recorded
- update knowledge and understanding of local child protection procedures

- consider increasing resources reflecting different cultures and disability

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