

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 119448
Inspection date 22 May 2007
Inspector Suzanne Joyce Stedman

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 1992. She lives with her adult son in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. 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 seven children aged from one year to 11 years all of these children are cared for part time. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are protected effectively from cross-infection and their good health is promoted because the childminder implements appropriate hygiene practices. There is a first aid kit in

the home. Most of the required documentation to promote the children's good health is in place; however the childminder's first aid certificate has expired, therefore in the event of an accident the childminder can not refer to recent training when dealing with children's minor injuries.

Children benefit from home cooked meals provided by the childminder, however parents can provide the children's meal if they wish. Most food is prepared using fresh ingredients, such as, tuna and sweet corn pasta, minced lamb, curry and rice. Drinks are made available throughout the day. The childminder ensures that she is aware of allergies and other special dietary requirements so that children's individual needs are met. The older children mainly sit at the breakfast bar to eat which makes this a sociable occasion promoting conversation between the children and with the childminder.

Children have some opportunities to take part in physical activity and develop their skills because the childminder plans a range of activities and play opportunities. For example, going for walks to the local park and having free play in the garden. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise each day which promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home setting which promotes their sense of security. Children have access to an outside area. Some hazards such as the steps to the decking and drop onto the patio are a potential risk to children. Children's all round development is promoted because the childminder has a range of toys and play materials. Equipment and play resources are checked regularly to ensure they remain safe for children to use.

Children are effectively learning about keeping themselves safe through everyday routines. This is because the childminder reinforces safety measures with the children. For example, she talks to the children about walking and not running when crossing the road and ensures that they either hold her hand, the buggy or walk between herself and the fence away from the road.

Children are protected because the childminder has an understanding of her role in safeguarding children she has also attended child protection training. The childminder is aware of the procedures to follow if she has any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and content while at the childminder's home. The childminder has some understanding of how children learn through play and enjoy free choice of inside or outside play. For example, children are able to play in the garden with push along toys or in the cabin as they choose. Younger children have free access to view children's programmes such as Postman Pat and to help themselves to books. Older children enjoy playing 'off ground touch' and talking about things that happen at home or at school.

Children enjoy their spontaneous play such as playing with the cars, see saw, boat and small slide. They also enjoy regular outings and have opportunities to be creative with play dough and paint. The childminder communicates with the children and they respond appropriately

listening to what the childminder is saying. Children are shown lots of affection which promotes their self-esteem.

The childminder provides children with a positive role model because she talks with parents and other children which encourage them to communicate well with one another. She talks to the younger children explaining what they are doing which encourages them to link words with actions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children have very good relationships with the childminder because she works with the parents to meet children's individual needs and she knows the children well. Children have a sense of belonging because they are able to bring toys in from home and the childminder echoes the child's routines from home. Contracts and permission slips are maintained but these are not clear. Accident records are not individual. Potentially the lack of clarity and confidentiality impacts on children's welfare.

All children are treated as individuals and with respect by the childminder, which promotes their sense of self-worth effectively. Children are able to take part in activities and experiences having free access to inside or outside play. They are encouraged to talk about traditions such as, the Chinese zodiac and which animal they are depending on the year they were born. Few activities give children opportunities to learn about disability however, the childminder plans to use the local library to help children learn more about differences.

Children's good behaviour is promoted through lots of positive language and encouragement. Subsequently, children behaviour is good, they get on well together and demonstrate warm relationships with each other.

The children benefit from seeing the positive relationships between the childminder and their parents. The childminder actively promotes an open two way communication with all parents to ensure that she can offer consistent and good quality care. The parents of the minded children have written very complementary letters detailing how happy they are with the care provided, particularly that the childminder makes time for the children to do their homework whilst in her care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is suitably experienced to meet children's needs as she has completed a local authority approved childminder's course and has an understanding of children's welfare issues and child development through her experience as a childminder for the past 15 years. As her first aid certificate has expired, children's welfare is potentially compromised.

Children's needs are met because the childminder ensures that the required adult to child ratio is met. She organises space and resources to promote the children's welfare and learning by registering the whole of the ground floor of the house, garden and play cabin.

The childminder maintains required records to ensure the satisfactory and safe management of the childminding service. All documentation about individual children is shared with their parents and carers, however, permission boxes such as for outings are sometimes not ticked

and some records are not separated to ensure confidentiality; this potentially impacts on children's welfare.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She agreed to keep toys and equipment are clean and to plan a range of activities and play opportunities that include creative and messy play and ensure activities are focused on children's developmental needs. Some of these issues have been addressed, such as the toys and equipment are clean and items have been purchased regarding creative/messy play. Therefore children's health is better promoted and activities have been extended. However, some further resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice have been provided to begin to enable children to learn consideration for others.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 all permission and agreements are individually signed and maintain confidentially when recording accidents and incidents
- assess the risks to children in relation to the outside play area
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

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