

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 125919
Inspection date 09 August 2007
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 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 1990. She lives with her husband and grown-up children in Ashford, Kent. The whole ground floor area of the house is used for minding children. 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 one child under eight and five children over eight years of age. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local Parent and Toddler Group. She receives support from the Local Authority. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder pays good attention to the standards of hygiene in her home. Work surfaces and areas are kept clean. There is a downstairs bathroom and this helps to encourage children to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, especially before meals and after using the toilet. The hand towel they use is changed daily. The childminder has a written sickness policy and she does not care for children who are unwell. As a result the risk of cross-infection for

children is kept to a minimum. The childminder has attended a recognised first aid course and has a first aid kit ready for use. Any minor injuries children incur are dealt with efficiently. She keeps appropriate records about children's accidents and any medication administered. However, the information written down is not recorded confidentially. Children are able to play outdoors in a secure garden area. They have a choice from equipment, such as a play tent, tunnel, hoops and balls. Children benefit from the fresh air and regular exercise. The availability of activities such as mark-making resources, means children can further develop their fine motor skills. The childminder does not provide cooked meals for the children. They bring packed lunches and drinks from home. The childminder also visits a local Sure Start Centre where the children learn about healthy eating and can try different foods. She is helping to promote healthy living with the children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has maintained a child-friendly and welcoming environment for children. Safety measures have been taken to ensure her home is safe. For example, all dangerous objects and items are stored in high cupboards, socket covers are in place and a bolt on the gate keeps the rear garden secure. Children are able to feel safe and secure while they play freely both inside and outdoors. A risk assessment procedure is followed by the childminder and she regularly checks her home and equipment. This results in the provision of well-maintained, hygienic, suitable toys and resources. The childminder cannot drive but sometimes uses public transport, for example buses and trains. There are procedures in place which the childminder follows for outings with the children. Parents provide written permission for children to participate in trips outside the childminder's home. Children experience the local community. Fire equipment is in place, with a fire blanket, smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide detector all fitted to National Standards. An emergency evacuation procedure is practised regularly with all the children. They are learning how to keep themselves safe in an emergency. The childminder has attended several courses on keeping children safe and child protection. She has a good knowledge and understanding of how to ensure children's continued protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder provides children with a wide range of activities and experiences, including local outings to places of interest and visits to support groups. Local trips on buses and trains mean children are able to experience the wider community. They benefit from free play when in the childminder's home. The garden has play equipment which can be extended by the children and they frequently create camps and little houses. This encourages children to use their imagination in their play. Hoops, balls and water play provide opportunities for children to benefit from physical exercise in the fresh air. Indoors, they are able to mark-make and create collages and pictures by using different art and craft materials. The children are very proud of the ladybird pictures they completed today, at a local Sure Start centre. They are also able to use what they do to influence future craft ideas, for example model making. Some of the children's creations are displayed by the childminder which helps promote their self-esteem. The childminder inter-acts constantly with the children and talks and listen to them. They often share a joke and enjoy laughing together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder encourages children to respect each other. They are helpful towards one another and get on well. Any minor disagreements are quickly sorted out, this means that the children are learning to sort out their own differences. All the children have access to suitable toys and activities available at the childminders. Important information from parents and the children themselves, such as likes and dislikes and allergies, enables the childminder to meet children's individual needs. Although there are none present, the childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and or disabilities. She has a positive attitude towards the care and attention they need. A selection of books, dressing up and imaginary play activities provide children with positive images of the differences in people in today's society. The children's behaviour is very good. The childminder discusses parents expectations and also talks with the children about how they like to be treated. Consequently the children build up good self-esteem and play within well-defined boundaries. The childminder works closely with parents and provides relevant information about her service. There is a good selection of clear policies and procedures which are shared with parents. Verbal feedback when children are collected, provides parents with important information about their child's progress. Children benefit from the continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has been caring for children for many years. She also works at a local primary school as a lunch-time supervisor. Over time she has attended several workshops and training courses relating to child care, such as behaviour management and signing. Consequently, the childminder is now an experienced and professional child carer. She holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. All adults in the household have been vetted and hold current Criminal Record Bureau checks. The childminder has adequate and relevant paperwork completed on each child. Her attendance register is marked daily and documentation relating to her childminding service is shared with parents. The childminder's registration certificate is clearly displayed. She has completed a service contract with parents, which is regularly reviewed. Children's records are confidential and stored appropriately. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were three recommendations resulting from the last inspection. The first one recommended that the childminder develop more positive strategies for behaviour management. She has attended behaviour management workshops and as a result has developed positive methods regarding managing children's behaviour. The childminder praises the children and involves them and their parents in discussions on effective ways to encourage good behaviour.

The second recommendation requests that the childminder obtains details of the signs and symptoms of any allergies children may have. The childminder ensures that parents provide this information on the individual child record forms. Children's well-being is safeguarded.

The final recommendation states that the childminder seeks prior written permission from parents, to administer medication, to take children on outings and to transport children in a vehicle. All permissions from parents are now obtained in writing and all medication administered is recorded appropriately. Children's welfare is protected.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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:

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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):

- ensure any information or details recorded about the children is stored confidentially.

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