



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 126038
Inspection date 29 July 2005
Inspector Sarah Morfett

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 1998. She lives with her husband and two children aged ten and seven in Burham, Rochester. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the childminder uses part of the garden and local parks for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child full time and three children part time. The childminder walks/drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a cat and some fish.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good variety of activities which contribute to their health and wellbeing. Each day they walk to and from school with the childminder ensuring that they get regular exercise. Trips to the local park mean that they have an opportunity to use large climbing equipment which helps them develop their physical skills. Children enjoy watching musical programmes which helps them explore the space around them and they learn to use their bodies. Children learn to develop control of their movements. Children learn how to be healthy as they understand why they must wash their hand after going to the toilet and playing outside. An effective sickness policy that is in place and shared with parents ensures that children are kept safe from the risk of infection.

Children are able to help themselves to frequent drinks as they have their own cups kept within easy reach, these are regularly refilled. The children are encouraged to eat healthily as mid-morning snacks of fruit or rice cakes are offered. The children are involved in their food choices. When they go shopping with the childminder they choose the fruit for snack time, are encouraged to try different types and are beginning to learn about healthy choices. Children's dietary requirements are considered as the childminder keeps records of children's allergies and notes their likes and dislikes. Parents provide packed lunches for their children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment where risks have been identified and steps taken to minimise these, for example the childminder intends to fit a lock onto the garden gate in the first part of the garden, this will enable the children to move around safely, freely and independently. Children make independent choices from a range of stimulating activities which are displayed at their level and can be easily accessed. Toys and equipment are suitable for the ages of the children who attend, they are well maintained and children are encouraged to participate in their upkeep, for example by helping wash them and joining in the tidying up. Children learn respect for the things around them.

The childminder has most of the procedures and documentation in place to ensure that the children's welfare is safeguarded, for example the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and all written permission for the procedures that require them are in place. However, although the emergency evacuation procedure has been thought out it has not been written down, shared or practised with the children. Children are kept safe when out with the childminder as she ensures that children know about road safety and uses wrist bands with a contact number on in case of an

emergency. Children are safe and secure as the childminder has a sound knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and she is clear about her duty to the children in her care. Children feel safe in the environment that is created.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well settled at the childminder's house. They appear happy and confident and quickly make themselves at home. Toys and resources are readily available and children show confidence in choosing from a stimulating range of experiences which promotes their areas of development, such as role play, singing and dancing. Children enjoy well planned activities as the childminder has a good knowledge of the foundation stage and includes this when planning for the children's next steps. Children benefit from a close relationship with the childminder, they play well together and there are lots of smiles and giggling during a rough and tumble game. Children are praised and encouraged and the childminder reinforces their achievements, consequently children begin to develop confidence and self-esteem.

All children play purposefully, activities are adapted so all minded children can join in. The childminder uses open ended questions to help the children to think, for example 'how many cars have you got' and 'how many have you got if I add this blue one?'. Younger children are supported well, they are given opportunities to explore through touch, sight, sound, smell and movement. Children are beginning to become competent learners.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a meaningful range of activities and resources which promote a positive view of the world around them, for example puzzles and books increase children's awareness of diversity, and through play and discussion with the childminder they learn about different cultures. Activities offered to children are age-appropriate and non-discriminatory, dressing-up clothes reflect different genders and all children can choose what to wear. All children are treated with equal concern.

Children are valued as individuals. Their needs are met as their normal daily routine is shared with parents, by the childminder in the form of a contact book. Children behave very well with the childminder, her attitude towards behaviour management means that children are given good, clear boundaries in which to develop and grow. Younger children are supported very well by the childminder, this ensures that children develop a strong sense of belonging which allows them to explore the world from a secure base. The childminder has a positive attitude towards including children with special needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease within the well organised environment. Children are confident and self-assured. This means that they are able to initiate and extend their learning and play. Well thought out planning contributes to valuable experiences for children. Children make good progress in all areas of development. Policies and procedures developed by the childminder are used effectively and promote children's welfare, care and learning. These are shared with parents to ensure they are well informed of the care their children receive. The childminder has a positive attitude to updating her knowledge and understanding of children's development. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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 that an emergency plan is implemented, shared and practised with children
- ensure that a secure lock is fitted on the gate in the first part of the garden

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk