



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 136674
Inspection date 08 September 2005
Inspector Elizabeth Ellen Mackey

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 registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 12 years and 6 years. They live in a house in a residential area of West Wickham.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. There are no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. Her registration is to provide care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and she is currently caring for 2 children aged 4 and 3 years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Children are settled and benefit from a close relationship with the childminder. Children participate in a wide range of physical activities, including a daily walk. The children benefit from the fresh air, exercise and by experiencing different elements, for example in poor weather children wrap up warm and enjoy walking through the woods in the rain. Children also attend toddler groups and regular outings to places of interest. Children are confident and they demonstrate a sense of belonging through exploring their environment freely and selecting resources independently.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home. There is a very good standard of hygiene throughout and children are encouraged to maintain good standards of personal care. For example the childminder acknowledges their achievements when they manage the bathroom routine independently.

Children enjoy a range of meal and snacks. They are able to choose from the healthy choices available. All provision takes account of parent's wishes. Healthy snacks such as fruit and drinks are available at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe home, because the childminder takes steps to minimise risks for children. Children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder helps the children understand how to keep themselves safe, both in and outside the home. Children adhere to the measures the childminder puts in place to minimise risks. For example they know they must remain within her view when walking in the woods. Children are at risk from hazards identified in the garden and the childminder is taking steps to minimise these.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards and are appropriate to the children's age and stage of development. The childminder organises resources according to recommended age to ensure safety for all the children.

The childminder's policies and procedures underpins the good practice to safeguard and promote children's development. She has a good understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures and has attended training in this area to update her knowledge. The childminder recently updated her First-Aid training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, confident and settled. The childminder's enthusiastic, supportive approach encourages children to feel welcome and develop a sense of belonging. She knows the children well and she effectively supports their individual needs. She takes into account their different ages and stages of development in planning activities. Children enjoy an extensive range of activities, including regular outings to places of interest and toddler groups where they have the opportunity to mix with their peers. Children begin to develop their confidence and independence in the setting, because they are provided with sufficient challenges and the childminder acknowledges their achievements.

Children make good progress. The good range of resources is used well to interest children. Children benefit from having a good relationship with the childminder. She interacts positively with the children and consistently communicates with them; this encourages their imaginative play and extends their learning. They welcome her involvement in their play and respond affectionately to her.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and the childminder meets their individual needs. She knows them well and spends time engaging in their play. Children develop a sense of fairness, which the childminder achieves through effective communication. She listens to them and encourages them to express themselves. Children behave well because of the good relationships fostered. They respect each other and are learning to take responsibility for their actions. Children are becoming aware of the wider world, through regular outings to the park, groups and local area.

The childminder welcomes parents and works closely with them to promote the welfare and development of the children. She meets the children's needs well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and are comfortable in the well organised environment. Children's play opportunities are maximised because of the organisation of the home, which includes a well resourced playroom. Children's independence develops by being able to select resources independently and the organisation enables them to move freely and safely from one area to another.

Policies and procedures in place work well in keeping children healthy and safeguarding their welfare. Positive relationships and good communication with parents contributes to meeting children's needs well. Documentation meets requirements and is confidentially stored. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The procedures which are required to safeguard children's welfare have improved since the last inspection due to the childminder obtaining the required information when administering medication.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted has received one complaint since April 2004. Concerns were raised which related to the number of pets in the household. These concerns related to Standard 7 Health. The complaints were investigated by the provider. The outcome was there was no evidence that standards had been breached and no further action was taken.

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):

- Conduct a risk assessment of use of the trampoline, including confirmation from insurance provider and permission from parents.
- Ensure the back gate in the garden is secure

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