



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 125375
Inspection date 25 April 2006
Inspector Melissa Tickner

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 1997. She lives with her husband and three children aged 10, 2 and 1, in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. Her mother also resides in the adjacent annex, who works as her assistant. 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under 1. She works with her husband who also acts as a registered childminder on the same premises. The childminder walks to

local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing a suitable awareness of being healthy through aspects such as the use of wet wipes and individual flannels. Methods for nappy changing are appropriate, including ensuring her hands are always washed afterwards. The childminder is aware of good hygiene practices, such as ensuring the teat of a child's cup is sterilised after her son has touched it. The childminder maintains a clean and tidy home environment. Children eat food provided by their parents, however the childminder is willing to offer a range of healthy food and snacks such as healthy cooked meals, raw vegetables and fruit and regular drinks of water. This ensures children are well nourished and remain hydrated.

Children benefit from physical activity most days, in all weathers, mostly playing in the garden, where they have a good range of outdoor physical play equipment. This helps children begin to develop an enjoyment and an understanding that physical exercise contributes to a healthy lifestyle. There are appropriate methods in place to care for ill children and parents are worked with closely. Currently the childminder does not have a valid first aid certificate; however is half way through completing the course, which will enable her to deal appropriately with accidents or emergencies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and welcoming home environment. Currently however, the bathroom lock is accessible at a low level to children, which presents a hazard. Other aspects have been considered well such as use of several stair gates throughout the house, safeguarding the garden and ensuring a safe play environment. Children have access to a good range of well organised, age appropriate toys, all of which are organised to encourage children to make choices, mostly stored in the playroom. For example, they can help themselves to the table top train set out at a low level, low level storage boxes and shelving. The childminder promotes and maintains safety with children appropriately. For example, she encourages children to walk carefully around the younger children, and frequently checks sleeping children. This helps teach children to take care of themselves and keeps them safe whilst in her care.

The childminder has suitable systems in place for ensuring children's safety when on outings, and when playing outdoors. She supports children in their play outside well, and supervises the use of outdoor play equipment. The childminder has a sound awareness of child protection issues, which helps her to safeguard children in her

care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and established in the childminder's care. They relate well to her and her own family, and play well together. The childminder provides a good variety of age appropriate activities and toys for the children, which are set out and accessible in the playroom. Children's needs and routines are met and followed and they are cared for appropriately. For example, the childminder chats to and praises the child present as she eats her lunch and the child smiles and responds to this. The childminder is reassuring, offering children cuddles and support during the inspection. Children are confident and happy with the childminder and her family. She offers children a range of activities, according to their interests and ages, for example painting and arts and crafts, cookery, outdoor play and the opportunity to play freely with the resources set out for them. For example, a young child present at the inspection is supported as they look at toys together chatting about what she picks up. The child responds to this, showing she is settled and happy. As a result of these aspects, children are able to enjoy and achieve whilst in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated and well cared for as individuals. Their needs are met well and routines are responded to. They are cared for appropriately in a well organised home environment. This helps children feel settled and well supported. They have access to a good range of resources. Some reflect the differences in society, such as small dolls, books and activities relating to Thailand where the childminder's husband comes from. This enables children to begin to learn about the diversity of our society.

Children are encouraged to behave well. The childminder promotes a positive approach with explanations and encourages sharing. Children respond well to praise used, such as when they are shown encouragement and are praised when finishing a meal. This shows they feel secure and valued. The childminder works closely with parents, through daily verbal feedback. This helps ensure children's needs can be met and parents are able to receive information about their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder works well as a team with her husband which enables them to offer an appropriate service to children. They support one another in their roles as childminders. She works from a suitable home environment, which meets children's needs appropriately. She has a clear set of documentation in place, which includes a service statement. She has not attended any courses recently, and does not feel this is appropriate for her currently. Most required documentation is in place, with the

exception of a valid first aid certificate, although the childminder is currently completing this course. The system for registering children's hours of attendance is appropriate, however does not specifically refer to who has been caring for the children. In addition, documentation relating to recent legislative changes has not yet been implemented. All other paperwork is up to date, signed, confidential and stored appropriately. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection in April 2003, the childminder was set actions to obtain permission for emergency treatment consent and to update checks. Recommendations were set for paperwork relating to the register, consent for using public transport and use of plasters, and updating the service statement. All required documentation has been implemented. Childminders are not being re-checked and this is not a requirement currently.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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 the bathroom lock is made safe or inaccessible
- ensure the register clearly records who is responsible for minded children
- ensure paperwork is in line with recent legislative changes

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