

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	115611
Inspection date	04 February 2008
Inspector	Janette Mary White
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 1998. She lives with her husband and four children in Bexley, Kent. 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding two. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an adequate range of activities which contribute to their good health. The childminder has not ensured that there is written permission to seek emergency advice, but she has permission to seek emergency medical treatment on the child's behalf. First aid equipment is easily accessible, but no basic supplies are taken on outings or when taking and collecting children from school. The childminder maintains records on medication and existing

injuries. In addition, there is a system to maintain records on accidents. The childminder is beginning to support children's understanding of the importance of washing their hands. A changing mat is used when changing children's nappies, although gloves are not used. Children are beginning to become aware of the way activity affects their bodies. They know when they need a rest and use their baby seats. Activities for physical robust outdoor play is not always provided as children generally play outdoors in fine weather. Children are developing confidence to try out new skills and they know when to ask for help. This is underpinned by the childminder's understanding of the levels of support. Children are offered a varied range of healthy options through a balanced diet. Drinking water or diluted juices are regularly offered.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

A fire blanket is readily accessible and smoke alarms are provided. However, the childminder has not devised or practised an emergency escape plan. In addition, exits are sometimes blocked with a 'clothes stand'. Therefore, this hinders children's opportunities to evacuate the premises promptly. The childminder completes a visual risk assessment and safety gates are used to ensure children remain in the front room. However, electric sockets in areas accessible to children are not fitted with socket covers. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate. Children are settled and their confidence is developing as they play freely. There is space for them to move around and make independent choices. They select activities from a sufficient range of toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder has some documents in place to ensure children's welfare is promoted, such as written permission for children to be transported in her car. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures and is aware of her responsibility to protect the welfare of the child. She has information relating to the Local Safeguarding Children Boards and understands what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and at home in the childminder's house. They are beginning to show a sense of confidence and enjoy choosing from a range of readily available resources. The toys are stored in boxes, although these are not labelled with words and pictures to aid the children's independent choice. These include books, games and interactive toys to help young children listen, respond and begin to make connections. However, the childminder does not use the Birth to three matters framework to adapt activities in order to promote younger children's learning. Children benefit from close contact with the childminder and are developing a positive sense of wellbeing and involvement. She spends time talking and playing with them. For example, as they read their favourite stories together. She praising them for their achievements, such as 'well done for putting your cup on the table'. Children have opportunities to play with a range of resources to promote aspects of equal opportunities. They are becoming aware of others and socialise with other children at toddler groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the need to build a partnership with parents. However, she lacks the knowledge and understanding of the current complaints process and

the requirements relating to informing parents. This is a breach of regulation, however the childminder will take appropriate action to address this point. The parents are given limited written information of the service provided. She has a general awareness of children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The childminder has a positive understanding of the importance of treating each child with equal respect. Children are treated with equal concern by the childminder. They feel secure and benefit from consistency of care. This is achieved by the childminder and parents working together. Children are only released into the care of authorised adults. However, there is no procedure in place for an emergency, such as passwords. Children's records have details of their appropriate care needs. They are beginning to understand the behavioural boundaries set by the childminder and respond well to frequent praise and encouragement.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and settled within an organised environment. They feel secure and at ease with the childminder and their surroundings. Records are easily accessible and ready for the inspection. However, the childminder is unaware of how long some of these records must be retained. The childminder has an up to date first aid certificate in order to ensure appropriate first aid treatment is administered to children. The correct and most recent registration certificate is now displayed. The register contains details of the hours of attendance. There is no system to record visitors. Children's welfare, care and development is promoted, due to the childminder keeping the required records and documents. Parents are verbally informed on a daily basis about activities or visits the children have taken part in. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection highlighted two recommendations to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and obtain a copy of 'What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused' and increase play resources and activities that promote all areas of equal opportunities.

Since the last inspection the childminder has obtained a copy of 'What to do if You are Worried a Child is Being Abused' and extended her knowledge and understanding of her responsibility in relation to child protection. In addition, she has increased resources reflecting equal opportunities.

As a result, children's welfare is protected as the childminder has developed her knowledge of child protection and they have opportunities to play with a wider range of resources reflecting equal opportunities.

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:

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):

- develop and implement a fire drill procedure.
- develop a suitable range of activities for the younger children by using the Birth to three matters framework.
- ensure there is a system to keep a written record of complaints and a summary for parents.

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