

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY221955
Inspection date	05 December 2007
Inspector	Linda Margaret Nicholls
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 2003. Registration is for three children under eight years. She is currently minding one child before and after school. Registration does not include overnight care. The childminder lives with her child in Erith, Kent. The lounge, hallway and child's bedroom are available for play. There is no garden. The home is within walking distance of local schools and pre-schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop an understanding of personal health and hygiene practice through everyday routines. The childminder ensures the play equipment is clean so that the risk of cross infection is minimised. Children wash their hands before eating food or after messy play. Children enjoy regular physical activity as they walk to and from school or play in the local parks. Children know how to relax, they sit quietly or lay on the sofa when they need a rest.

Children learn about healthy food. They eat noodles, vegetables and fruit such as kiwi, oranges and apple. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure individual dietary needs are met. Children have access to water throughout the day.

Children who have an infection do not attend which prevents the spread of contagious illness. All required documents are clearly maintained and emergency contact numbers are held. Parents are effectively informed and prepared well for emergencies for example when children may be taken ill or there may be a serious accident requiring emergency treatment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children make independent choices from free standing toys and resources in an organised and well maintained home. The floor space is uncluttered. The home has clean bright décor, comfortable furniture and child height tables and chairs. The range of equipment is checked daily for repair or discarded.

Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous such as the adult bedroom. Cleaning liquids and sharp knives are secured. The childminder routinely completes a risk assessment of her home. The home is secure and children play safely. An emergency exit procedure has been considered although this is not available for parents information. Public liability insurance is current. Written, signed parental consents to use public transport are unavailable. Children feel cared for and secure as they are closely supervised at all times both in the home and outside. Road safety habits are reinforced as they walk with the childminder to or from school.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. Parents are informed of her professional role. Local and national contact numbers are available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are stimulated, supported and engaged in painting imaginative designs on a ceramic mug. Children are confident and proud of their achievements because the childminder praises their work and when they share the paints. Children make purposeful and independent choices regarding their play. They choose the colours they wish to use. The childminder provides a range of good quality items such as dolls, books and a computer. Children extend their developing physical skills pressing buttons, using scissors and paint brushes. They take turns to scoot on the sit and ride car.

Children are encouraged to share and care for each other. They learn to respect differences and have appropriate self control. They understand right and wrong because the childminder is consistent and gives simple explanations of the behaviour she wants. Children develop a sense of time and personal history as they state they know its 'not long to Christmas'. The childminder is forward thinking and has attended training to learn more about the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show confidence, are respected and are allowed to feel good about themselves because the childminder has a positive attitude towards physical and cultural diversity. She encourages children to acknowledge differences and provides a modest range of equipment, such as books, dolls and small world toys for them to explore their ideas of the wider world. Children receive consistency of care because individual requirements and family preferences are recorded and discussed at an initial interview. The childminder is aware of the supportive role she will offer to families with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should this be required.

Children know how to control themselves and are good natured towards each other. The childminder gives simple consistent explanations for the behaviour she wants. Children share toys and play happily together. Discussion of behaviour management methods is undertaken at an initial meeting with parents and a record of incidents will be maintained.

The partnership with parents is satisfactory. Written agreements are used and individual details are recorded. For example, GP details, medical information and adults identified to collect children are recorded. Signed permissions are held as good practice although consent to use public transport is not available. Information is shared daily between the childminder and the family. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about most policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children show an established self confidence and sense of belonging and play happily together. Children's imaginations are stimulated and engaged because equipment is provided to meet their individual abilities.

The childminder keeps all documentation to a satisfactory standard, although written permission to use public transport for outings and parents information of emergency exit procedures are not available. Registered ratios are maintained and the record of attendance notes when children are present and why they are absent. The childminder has completed an Introducing Childcare Practice course, an NVQ3 and training for the Early Years Foundation Stage. She holds a current certificate in first aid for children and babies. The registration document is displayed. She is aware to inform parents and the registering body of any changes to her circumstances that may affect the welfare of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was given four actions and agreed to meet three recommendations. The provider maintains all necessary documents, plans play opportunities, provides resources to meet development needs of all children under eight years and has basic knowledge of child protection issues. The provider ensures there is sufficient natural light and adequate ventilation, ensures hazardous substances and sharp knives are secure, has fitted a fire blanket and ensures the first aid box is stocked and accessible.

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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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 written permission for using public transport is sought
- ensure parents are informed of emergency exit procedures and that these are practised by children

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