

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY266728
Inspection date	18 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 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 2003. Registration is for four children under eight years. The childminder is currently minding six children, none of whom is full time. Registration does not include overnight care. The childminder lives with her two children aged under 12 years in Erith, Kent. Minded children have access to the lounge, dining room and the garden. The childminder collects children from local schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

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 to children is minimised. Children wash their hands before eating food and know the family rule, 'What you touch is what you eat.'

Children enjoy regular physical activity playing football, basketball or climbing on the climbing frame. They develop balance and coordination. Children know how to relax. They sit quietly to read books or lay on the sofa when they need a rest.

Children learn about healthy food choices. The childminder offers light meals such as burgers, sausages, pasta and tuna after school. She works in partnership with parents to ensure individual dietary needs are met. Children have access to water and squash 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 medical emergencies. Written permission to seek emergency advice or treatment is not available. First aid certification is current and a back up childminder is known to parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children and adults are welcomed into an organised and well maintained home. The floor space is uncluttered and children make independent choices from free standing toys or stored items. There is good natural light and adequate ventilation. The home has comfortable furniture and clean bright décor. Children select from a sufficient range and variety of toys which are checked daily for repair or discarded. Cleaning routines are followed and children know to tidy away unwanted toys and equipment.

Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous such as cleaning liquids and powders. The childminder routinely completes a risk assessment of her home. Children play safely in a secure home. Fire safety recommendations are in place and alarms tested regularly. An emergency exit plan has been considered however this has not been practised and parents are unaware of these procedures. Public liability insurance is current. Children feel cared for and secure as they are closely supervised at all times both in the home and at outside venues. Road safety habits are reinforced whenever they walk along the road.

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 and local and national contact numbers are displayed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are stimulated and engaged in playing Battleships or looking at books. Children are confident and proud of their achievements because the childminder praises them as they get the hang of the game. Items of children's work are displayed. The childminder praises wanted behaviour such as respecting others or looking after equipment. Children extend their physical skills as they play football or basket ball in the garden or place the tiny red and white ships into the holes on the board. Children talk enthusiastically to the childminder as they play. 'I've got two ships down now.' says one.

Children receive support and guidance from the childminder who encourages them to care for each other. They learn to respect differences and share resources. They have appropriate self control and understanding of right and wrong because the childminder ensures they know her 'house rules' giving simple explanations when necessary. Children have a strong sense of their

personal identity as they describe when they attended the school concert and what day they will 'break up.'

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children show confidence and have high levels of self esteem. They are respected and allowed to feel good about themselves because the childminder has a positive attitude towards physical difference and cultural diversity. She encourages children to acknowledge differences and provides a range of equipment, such as books, puzzles, dolls and small world toys to reflect the local community and 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 children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children know how to control themselves, are good natured and caring towards each other. They know the childminder's rules because she gives simple, consistent, explanation 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 when required.

The partnership with parents is good. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about most relevant policies and procedures. Parents are unaware of the emergency exit procedures. 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 not current. Daily information is exchanged ensuring potential concerns are resolved immediately. The childminder is aware to develop a procedure for concerns or complaints she may receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children show an established self confidence and sense of belonging in an organised and welcoming home. Children's imaginations are stimulated and engaged because equipment is provided to meet their individual abilities.

The childminder keeps most documentation secure and readily available for inspection. However, parents are unaware of the childminder's emergency exit procedures and some signed consents are unavailable. 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 and 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 agreed to two recommendations, to gain signed parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and to provide activities that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Equipment and activities are planned

to include all children. Signed parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has not been sought.

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 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):

- request parents sign written permissions to reflect current practice and inform them of emergency exit procedures
- ensure children are aware of the emergency exit procedure so that their understanding of personal safety is extended.

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