



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY293186
Inspection date	20 March 2006
Inspector	Donna Bonner
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband, one adult son and two children aged nine and 16 years. They live in a house in West Wickham close to shops, schools, parks and public transport.

The ground floor of the home is used for childminding purposes which includes a living room and toilet facilities. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play opportunities. The family has no pets.

The childminder currently cares for three children aged five to seven years after school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to participate in healthy routines and be aware of good hygiene practice. Children know that washing their hands after using the bathroom and before meals helps to prevent the spread of germs. Children enjoy their after school snacks of crisps and chocolate biscuits but have limited opportunities to develop healthy eating habits as they have limited fruit and vegetables. Children's physical development is encouraged as they regularly walk from school and play with balls in the garden. Children's health records are maintained and the childminder is first aid qualified and so is confident to treat children according to updated practice. However, the childminder does not request to seek emergency medical treatment from parents and this means that in such an event, children may not receive the agreed care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a welcoming and mostly safe environment where most items are in place to ensure children's safety. They play with toys that meet safety standards and are age appropriate as the childminder takes care in purchasing items. Children develop awareness of keeping themselves safe as the childminder talks about safety with them and holds their hand when outside. The childminder does not practise fire drills and whilst exits are clear, children do not know how to evacuate from the home safely in an emergency. The childminder is aware of her duty to protect children in her care but does not have written child protection guidelines. This means that she does not have contact details to safeguard children's welfare and is taking measures to address this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is inadequate.

Children have a good relationship with the childminder. They enjoy stimulating activities outside the home including regular visits to the local library and parks which helps to develop their social skills. Inside the home, children enjoy playing board games such as ludo and the childminder joins in and supports them which increases their confidence. Children enjoy watching age appropriate television programmes but as viewing is not planned, there are limited learning or challenging opportunities from this. Furthermore, children have fewer opportunities to do more activities to encourage their all-round development as toys and activities are not well presented.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children behave well and respond well to the childminder as she speaks to them calmly and is positive about differences. Children are courteous when playing games and treat each other

well. They understand and follow the house rules such as, not throwing inside the home. The childminder discusses their progress with their parents and this offers children consistency. Children are largely cared for in accordance with their parents wishes as records including childminder contracts, accident and medicines are maintained and discussed with parents. However written consent for outings is lacking and although this is discussed, there is no documentary evidence that parents wishes are respected. The childminder understands the need to offer individual care for children and where a child has special need will work closely with their parents and other professionals.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder does not work within the conditions of her registration as she does not ensure that Ofsted is notified of her husband working as her assistant. Further more, although this is discussed, there are no written agreements to confirm parents wishes are met. The childminder is not efficient in preparing for her childminding day by organising play opportunities for children. Children therefore, have limited challenging activities. The childminder does not demonstrate professionalism as she does not maintain all documentation in line with the national standards. The childminder does not have a copy of the National Standards to keep her informed about her childminding practice. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not Applicable

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- inform ofsted of any changes with particular regard to employing an assistant
- plan activities and play opportunities to develop children's all round development
- obtain a copy of the National Standards for Childminding to keep informed of childminding practice
- make sure there is written parental agreements with particular regard to collection of children and permission to seek emergency medical treatment

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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