



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY294415
Inspection date	17 February 2006
Inspector	Sally Hall

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her husband and three children in a semi-detached property on an estate in Heathfield. Children have use of the whole property and a secure garden. She has been registered since 2004 and is currently caring for two children before and after school and takes and collects children from school.

The family have seven cats, two of which are Siamese, a Springer Red Setter dog and a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and well-being is promoted well through the childminder's good practise, clear policies and procedures that are in place. Children learn about good hygiene procedures from the childminder. For example, children are reminded of the importance to wash hands before snacks and their independence encouraged with toileting. Children know to take their shoes off when entering the home. Children receive appropriate care in the event of being unwell and documentation is used to ensure parents are well informed. Sensible precautions are taken with the family pets and good hygiene procedures are followed.

Children's dietary needs are known and meal arrangements are flexible with the childminder or parent's supplying meals. Children are encouraged to have fruit and sugar free drinks and parents wishes are respected. Children's social skills at meal times are encouraged well.

Children's physical development is encouraged well, they are able to play in the secure garden and have a range of toys to challenge them. Children minded for longer periods will also have opportunities to visit local parks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where sensible safety precautions are in place to minimise potential risks. Children are supervised well at all times and can move freely downstairs between the lounge, kitchen and conservatory whilst being supervised well. Children are able to play in a secure garden with easy access from the conservatory. Children are transported to and from school and all the documentation including parental consents is in place to support this.

Children have a good range of resources to select which are in good condition easily accessible and rotated to provide challenge. The childminder regularly checks the toys to ensure they are safe and they are suitable for the ages of children minded.

Children's welfare is further supported through the childminder's knowledge of child protection and first aid.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children currently minded are present for limited periods however; they are very secure and happy. They have a good rapport with the childminder and encouraged to talk about how they have been at school. The childminder is flexible giving children plenty of choice of what they would like to do and individual needs are met very well.

For example, children are on occasions tired on returning from school and are given space to sit quietly often with a favourite toy.

Children are encouraged to value the resources and to help tidy up and to be kind to each other during play. They receive plenty of praise and encouragement and respond warmly to the childminder.

Children's individual needs and interests are known to the childminder. Increasing her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework will develop the range of activities for young children to explore and plan for their individual development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children respond well to the childminder. They are reminded of the importance to share and take turns. Particularly with favourite toys and often duplicates are found by the childminder to ensure children are treated equally. Children have use of a range of resources that reflect positive images of a diverse society. Children are listened to by the childminder, well behaved, happy and confident and familiar with the boundaries within the home. They are learning good manners and chat happily.

The childminder has a good understanding of supporting children with special needs and aware of the importance of inclusion.

The children's parents are kept well informed on how their children have been to ensure consistency of care. Particularly with sharing information the children have given to the childminder about their school day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised environment and have confidence in the childminder. They are dropped off and collected from school promptly, and the children know she will be there for them. Children are secure and settled in the home they trust the childminder and listen well to instructions.

Children's records are well maintained this ensures the childminder has all the relevant information to support them. Documentation including policies and procedures is shared with parents.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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.

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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):

- continue to increase knowledge of activities for young children, for example, by the use of the Birth to three matters framework.

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