



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY318475
Inspection date	22 June 2006
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 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 years and four years in Bexleyheath, Kent. It is close to transport links in Abbey Wood and Bexleyheath, and within walking distance of shops, parks and local schools. Ground floor living rooms are available for childminding. There is a secure, enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a Longhaired German Shepherd dog. The childminder is not registered for overnight care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children understand the importance of good personal health and hygiene practice through daily routines. The childminder ensures the play equipment is clean so that the risk of cross infection to children is minimised. Children are independent in their self care and wash their hands before eating food. The childminder reinforces social conventions explaining frequently to children the need to use tissues to prevent the spread of infection

Children thrive and enjoy regular physical activity within the home and outside. They develop positive attitudes to exercise with daily use of the garden and walks to the local play park where they develop their balance and coordination. Children know how to relax. They go to the childminder for hugs and cuddles, sit quietly or lay on the carpet when they need a rest.

Children's appetites are successfully stimulated with cereals, fruits and toast. Their likes and dislikes are taken into consideration when meals are planned. They like strawberries, chocolate and jam sandwiches. They enjoy eating vegetables such as broccoli, carrots and peas. A sample menu is provided. 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 ailments. 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 good.

Children and adults are welcomed into an well organised and well maintained home. The floor space is uncluttered and inviting open toy boxes are accessible to the youngest child. Children move freely and play safely. Children select from a stimulating range and variety of toys which are checked daily for repair or replacement. There is good natural light and adequate ventilation. The home has comfortable modern furniture and clean bright décor. Children cannot access rooms or items that could be dangerous such as cleaning liquids and powders because the childminder ensures these are secured. The home is secure and children cannot leave unobserved.

The childminder routinely completes an informal risk assessment of her home. Parents are informed in writing of planned re-decoration. Fire safety recommendations are in place and an effective exit plan has been considered. Children can explain how a fire engine would come 'to get the fire, climb the ladder and put the fire out.' Parents are aware of the childminder's safety procedures. She is proactive in ensuring 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 as the childminder ensures they know to stop, look and listen as they walk along the road. The childminder carries a first aid kit in her car and has signed consent to transport children.

Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder is confident she has a clear and competent understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. Parents are informed of her professional role and she is aware to contact the local authorities to ensure her procedures meet local authority requirements.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are stimulated, supported and engaged in a wide range of inviting activities. They name objects on picture cards, place pieces of puzzles, care for a baby doll and take a pull-along dog for a walk. Children are confident and proud of their achievements because the childminder praises their work unreservedly. Children make purposeful and independent choices regarding their play as they select items from open toy boxes stored in child height shelving. Children chatter to the childminder engagingly as they play. She aids the development of their language with naming of words and asking questions which make them think.

Children thrive and extend their developing physical skills, clipping together the safety strap of the baby carrier, enthusiastically twisting puzzle pieces. They enjoy regular daily outside play in the garden and walk to the local bakers shop or local play parks.

Children receive gentle guidance from the childminder encouraging them to care for others. They learn to respect differences, recognise similarities and to be gentle with babies. Children are developing a sense of belonging, they know they enjoyed a bus ride with other minded children. They have appropriate self control and understanding of right and wrong because the childminder is alert, can distract them and gives gentle explanations when necessary.

The childminder is forward thinking and motivated to learn more about how children learn. She has applied for a two day course covering the Birth to three matters framework with the local authority.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children show confidence and have high levels of self esteem. They are respected and allowed to feel good about themselves because the childminder provides a modest range of equipment, such as books, puzzles, dolls and small world toys for them to explore ideas of the wider world. Children receive consistency of care because individual requirements and family preferences are recorded and discussed

at an initial meeting. The childminder is aware of the supportive role she can offer to families with learning difficulties should this be required.

Children are learning to control themselves, are good natured and caring towards others. They know the childminder's ground rules because she gives simple consistent explanations for the behaviour she wants. Behaviour management methods are written and discussed with parents. The childminder does not use physical punishment and will keep a record of incidents should any occur.

The partnership with parents is good. 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 and daily information is exchanged ensuring potential concerns are resolved immediately. The childminder is aware to maintain a record of complaints. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept well informed about all relevant policies and procedures.

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 has a professional attitude and keeps all documentation to a good standard. Records and information are securely held and readily available for inspection. 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 develop a complaints record meeting current requirements. A complaints record meeting current requirements is now held.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- continue to maintain the current high standard of record keeping and written information for parents.

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