



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY335551
Inspection date	20 November 2006
Inspector	Liz Margaret Caluori

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 parents and two sisters, aged nine and 17, in Hastings, East Sussex. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder works jointly with her mother who is also a registered childminder. Her father and sister are both registered to work as assistants. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time both when working alone or jointly with her mother. There are currently 16 children under eight years attending the setting for a variety of part time sessions. The childminder also provides care for children who are over eight.

The family has a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a hygienic, comfortable environment. This is maintained by the childminder and other adults working in the home who frequently wipe tables between activities and before serving snacks and meals. Children are well supported to develop good personal hygiene practices. Older children visit the toilet independently and routinely wash their hands; younger children are given support as necessary.

Children bring in packed lunches from home and these are supplemented with a range of nutritious snacks. These include items such as sandwiches and a range of fruit, and are planned to meet children's individual dietary requirements. Whilst children receive a clear message about the importance of eating healthily, this is not always shared with their parents and carers. As a result some children eat food, provided from home, that does not support the childminder's healthy eating policy.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air and physical exercise. When weather permits, they have access to the childminder's back garden and are also taken to play in nearby parks and green spaces. In poor weather children have access to a range of activities, such as dance mats.

There are well thought out arrangements in place regarding the care of sick children and the administration of medicines. The childminder is able to deal appropriately with accidents and maintains all required written records.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are protected by a range of effective safety precautions including the use of safety gates to restrict the access of younger children to the stairs. There are also written risk assessments to ensure that all adults working with the children understand the safety procedures in place. Security is given high priority within the setting and the supervision of children is also very effective. Children are able to play safely whilst experiencing a good level of challenge and independence. They move sensibly around the setting and listen well to any instructions or advice given by the childminder and other adults. Children are also learning to keep themselves safe through the on-going support of the childminder. Older children understand, for example, the importance of ensuring that very small toys are not left within the reach of the younger children.

Children play with an extremely good range of toys and resources. These are well maintained and stored at a low level so that children can select items for themselves.

Good arrangements are in place to protect the children from the risk of fire. The property is fitted with smoke detectors and a fire blanket and children are involved in emergency evacuation drills.

The childminder is confident in her ability to notice the potential signs and symptoms of child abuse. Her understanding of the responsibility she has to report any concerns ensures that children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the childminding setting. They enthusiastically play with the wide selection of toys provided. They make particularly good use of the role play equipment and art and craft resources. The childminder and other adults competently support children in their play without restricting their creativity. Children respond very well to the childminder's evident interest in them as individuals. They instigate many conversations and are happy to share their views and opinions.

There is a very positive and friendly atmosphere in the home. Children's individual needs are well understood. Babies receive a lot of cuddles and positive re-enforcement and the childminder is skilful in settling tired children.

The childminder works very effectively with her mother and sister to ensure that a wide range of activities are provided throughout the day. There are clear routines which are very well understood by the children. However, these are flexible in order to ensure that children are able to choose their own activities. The activities set up for free play are very well resourced and are extremely appealing to children.

The setting also provides care for children who are over eight years. The care of these children does not adversely affect the care of the minded children. The childminder and other adults are extremely effective at ensuring that all children are able to choose activities which are appropriate for their ages and stages of development. The younger children also benefit from the caring attention and support of the older children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The behaviour of children is extremely good. They are polite, well-mannered and caring. They enjoy the warm, friendly atmosphere which helps them to relate well to each other and to develop a sense of belonging. The childminder is calm and consistent when dealing with the children and this helps them to relax and feel at ease when they play.

Children play with a range of toys that provide images of people from the local community and wider world. They are developing good self-esteem as a result of the childminder's commitment to respecting them as individuals.

Effective procedures are in place to support children with disabilities. The childminder has a very positive attitude towards ensuring the needs of all children are met.

Children benefit from the positive relationships between the childminder and their parents and carers. The childminder provides a good range of written information which details different aspects of the service provided. In addition, information is shared during regular conversations.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Records are generally very well maintained, however the registration system is complex. Whilst the required information is accurately recorded, the organisation of the registers does not clearly identify the number of children under eight that are present at any one time.

Children thrive in the setting as a result of the careful organisation to meet their care and play needs. Space is very well used to ensure that a range of activities can take place at the same time. Activities such as cooking and arts and crafts take place at the dining table and a wide range of toys are set out on the floor. In addition, children make good use of the conservatory to play quieter, more restful games. Time is also well managed to ensure that children's individual routines are respected and younger children have the time and attention that they need. As a result of this children are happy, settled and confident.

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

Since registration 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):

- consider providing parents and carers with written information about the healthy eating policy in place within the setting
- review and improve the organisation of attendance records.

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