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Many parents have to use childcare at some point. One of their options is to choose a childminder. Childminders look after children on domestic premises, most often in the childminder’s own home or in the child’s home. Whereas nannies also work in domestic premises (although most often in the family home), the advantage of childminders is that they are subject to formal registration requirements. In the United Kingdom, this registration is required for child care under the age of eight. The registration implies that checks are carried out to ensure the childminder’s practices meet standards and that the childminder is knowledgeable about child development and childcare.

One book that can help the childminder in gaining this knowledge on child development is Lee’s *Childminder’s Guide to Child Development*. This book gives an overview of different areas of child development including: personal, social, emotional, cognitive, creative, and physical development. In addition, attention is given to children’s rights, working with disabled children, and working in partnership with parents. The book especially relates to the second unit of the UK diploma Home-based Child Care, “Childcare and Child Development (0-16) in the Home-Based Setting.”

The book is very compact. Lee keeps her discussion of the topics short and provides little detailed explanations. Her book, therefore, is indeed to be used for people who already have some knowledge of children or unit 1 of the UK diploma, or outside the UK, some other theoretical course. What the book mainly does is increase the reader’s awareness of what children are able to do, what they need and what the childminder’s possibilities are. There are multiple exercises for the childminder to achieve this. For example: “Try putting a music CD on while the children are engrossed in play. What do the children do when the music plays?” These types of exercises can stimulate the childminder to be creative in fostering the development of all children under her/his care and to be sensitive to their individual differences.

From the introduction of the book, it becomes clear that the individual development of children is exactly what Lee tries to emphasize. This is beautifully phrased by her as: “It is paramount that practitioners….do not lose sight of how a child develops and grows as an individual” (p. ix). Lee also stresses that the child should be looked at as a whole person, and thus accounts for the different areas of development simultaneously. In other words, Lee encourages the childminder to look at children from a holistic perspective. I would recommend this book to people who want to become a registered childminder and already have a fair amount of knowledge on child development.

Reviewed by Francine C. Jellesma, University of Amsterdam.