



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124708
Inspection date	11 May 2006
Inspector	Elizabeth Ellen Mackey
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 registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and three children aged 12, eight and four years old. The home is a two story house in a residential area of Purley. All of the property can be used for childminding purposes, although children play mainly on the ground floor. There is direct access to a garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years and is currently minding five children who attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Croydon childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Children are settled and benefit from a close relationship with the childminder. Children participate in a wide range of physical activities, including trips to the local park. The children benefit from the excellent use of the garden. The childminder brings activities out into the garden and encourages the children to develop their knowledge and understanding of how things grow. For example, the children have their own vegetable patch and they have cooked the vegetables they have grown. Children also attend regular outings to places of interest, including activity centres. Children are confident, make good relationships and demonstrate a sense of belonging.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable home. There is a very good standard of hygiene throughout and children are encouraged to maintain good standards of personal care. For example, the childminder encourages the children to wash their hands before eating.

Children enjoy a healthy range of meal and snacks. The childminder provides all fresh food, including home grown vegetables and home made bread. The childminder provides parents with a written menu and meals takes account of parent's wishes. Snacks are healthy, and fruit and water are available at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe home, because the childminder undertakes a comprehensive risk assessment to minimise hazards for children. Children are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder helps the children understand how to keep themselves safe, both in and outside the home. Children adhere to the measures the childminder puts in place to minimise risks. For example, they know they must remain close by when out walking.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards and are appropriate to the children's age and stage of development. They use the climbing apparatus in the garden skilfully and safely

The childminder's policies and procedures underpin the good practice to safeguard and promote children's development. She has a good understanding of child protection procedures and she has recently attended child protection training. The childminder holds a current First Aid certificate.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are settled, happy and relish their time in the setting. The childminder knows the children well and consistently and effectively engages with them in their play. Children

demonstrate a sense of belonging and can independently access different areas in the home, which is organised to enable them to move freely.

Children enjoy an extensive variety of activities that are well planned. They include baking, learning to speak French, sand and water play, and many different crafts, where they can use a good range of natural resources. Outings are included in the weekly routine to the park, toddler groups, library and the children have a daily walk. The garden is utilised exceptionally well and offers children good opportunities to develop their climbing skills.

Children make very good progress. The excellent range of resources is used well to interest children and offers sufficient challenge. Children become engrossed in their play and their imaginative games develop through the children's good relationships with each other and the positive input from the childminder. They welcome her involvement in their play and respond affectionately to her.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well because of the good relationships fostered. They respect each other and are learning to share and take turns. Children are becoming aware of the wider world, through regular outings and through the childminders enthusiastic approach to learning. For example, the childminder encourages the children to notice their surroundings whilst out walking and extends their learning through discussion and play.

Children develop a sense of fairness and learn how to share, which the childminder achieves through effective communication. She achieves a good balance of supporting the children when dealing with difficulties and allowing them to work through it by themselves; this helps them to develop their social skills. Children are encouraged to express their ideas and make their needs known. For example, children also completed a questionnaire about their time in the childminding setting.

The childminder has a positive approach towards caring for children with a range of needs and abilities. The childminder is welcoming to parents and works closely with them to promote the welfare and development of the children. She obtains informative records of each child's needs and has a clear understanding of children's developmental stages. Parents views are sought and parents are extremely happy with the care their children receive. Children's development is promoted through the childminder's extensive knowledge and commitment to providing an excellent service. She meets the children's needs well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The organisation is good. Children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The childminder provides a child focussed environment that is organised to maximise children's play opportunities. The childminder has a good understanding and knowledge of childcare, which she uses to promote the welfare of the children. She is using the birth to three matters framework to enhance the

provision for children under three years. In addition the childminder maintains a diary of the children's day; however, this is for children who are three years and under. A recommendation is made for the system of recording to include all children attending the setting.

There are effective procedures in place to ensure children are safe. For example, an effective risk assessment is conducted and the fire evacuation plan is in place. Documentation is very well maintained and is stored securely to maintain confidentiality.

Overall the childminder meets the needs of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to maintain a record of children's attendance and put in place a system to record any incident of physical restraint. The childminder has improved her documentation and now has correct systems in place.

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):

- extend the system of recording children's time in the setting and their progress to include all the children

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