



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY320270
Inspection date	14 December 2006
Inspector	Joanna Scott

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 their one year old child in Bletchingley, in Redhill, Surrey. She is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for four children, most of whom attend on a part-time basis. In addition she is registered to provide overnight care for a maximum of two children. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding with sleeping facilities provided upstairs. Currently the garden is not used for childminding. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to local parks and the library. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). The childminder supports children with learning difficulties.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children enjoy a range of activities both inside and out which promote their growth and development. They dance in the house, they stretch and twist to music which helps them to balance and gain control of their bodies. They regularly walk to collect children from the local school, and make trips to the park to use the swings and climbing apparatus that are suitable for their age and stage of development. When the weather is poor they visit a soft play area where they are able to play actively. All of this helps to keep them fit. The childminder plans her day to ensure that children have opportunities to be active and to rest.

The children's health is protected. There are suitable procedures in place for when children are unwell. In addition, the childminder reminds the children to blow their noses and dispose of the used tissue, and to wash their hands at key times such as after toileting and before eating. This ensures that the children are protected from cross infection.

The children are able to access and pour their own water from a jug when they are thirsty, and younger children are offered drinks regularly. The children eat a nutritionally balanced diet, which includes lots of fruit and vegetables which they enjoy. The childminder encourages them to try new foods in accordance with the parents wishes and ensures that any known allergies are recorded so that she is able to meet each child's dietary requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are able to play and move freely in a safe and child friendly home. The childminder ensures that most risks are identified and minimized. She uses appropriate safety equipment such as a fire guard, stair gates and socket covers which helps to ensure the environment is safe. However, she cannot confirm that the small glass panes on an internal door meet safety standards. The children are safe out of the home because the childminder supervises the children very well, and talks to them about road safety as they walk to and from school. Children are learning about keeping safe inside too. The childminder discourages them from running and encourages them to tidy away the toys they have finished playing with so that they do not trip over them.

The children are able to make choices about what they want to play with, choosing from a range of safe and suitable toys which they are able to self select. The childminder ensures that any toys with small parts are stored separately to ensure that younger children are kept safe.

The children are protected from fire, the childminder has a written evacuation plan and ensures that equipment such as smoke alarms and the fire blanket are in place and in working order. She completes a checklist to ensure that the premises is safe and secure before she goes to bed, which safeguards any children in her care overnight. She has a good understanding of child protection issues. Procedures are in place to ensure that any accidents or the administration of any medications are recorded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled in the homely environment. The childminder shares information with the parents to ensure that she knows about their care and home routines and is able to meet their individual needs. They children enjoy playing with toys that are bright and colourful, are of interest to them, and which they can self select. They make regular trips to the library and soft play area which enables them to mix with other children and develop their social skills. They are confident and secure.

The childminder talks to the children about what they are doing and encourages them to develop independence, for example in trying to dress themselves. She is very child focused and spends the time caring for them, or sitting on the floor playing and interacting with them. This helps them to extend their play and their levels of concentration. They enjoy an affectionate relationship, the childminder freely offers hugs and cuddles to the children. They smile, vocalise and talk and respond to each other which develops their speech. The children play well together, they interact well and are caring to one another.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children feel valued, the childminder is warm and nurturing and treats them with concern and respect. The childminder praises them as they play and for being gentle and kind to each other. This promotes the children's self esteem.

The children behave well. They understand how the childminder expects them to behave. She has consistent and appropriate methods for managing behaviour, which are very positive, and any minor disputes are quickly resolved. She supports and encourages the children to be considerate to each other and to share.

The childminder and parents have a good working relationship where there is a consistent flow of information between the parties relating to the children's care. This enables the childminder to meet the individual needs of each child. She has a very positive attitude towards supporting children's inclusion for those with additional needs and takes the time for research to enable her to provide suitable care. This helps to ensure that the care and attention the children receive is a positive experience. Children learn to develop a positive attitude towards others through discussion about differences.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are relaxed in this homely and well organised environment; they are not rushed in their play and exploration. The childminder is very focused on caring for and playing with the children. She and the children enjoy their time together. The children are protected in and out of the home because she supervises them well.

The children's toys are stored to enable them to self select for themselves and helps enable them to develop independence. The routine is planned carefully to cater for each child's needs.

The childminding business is well organised. There are some key policies and procedures in place which reflect the service she provides, although more detail is needed regarding health and hygiene and the overnight care. There is an information file for parents which includes information about how the setting is organised and up to date information detailing how parents can complain if they have a concern. She provides a parents' notice board to display information relating to her registration and information about Ofsted. She helps parents and children to feel welcome.

The required adult to child ratios are maintained at all times, ensuring the children are well supported. Overall, 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 the last inspection, 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):

- ensure that low level glass in the door meets safety standards, and children are protected for risk injury
- develop further the detail in policies and procedures relating to health and hygiene and overnight care

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