



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	121458
Inspection date	03 November 2006
Inspector	Janet Marie Thouless
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 outstanding. 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 1994. She lives with her husband and four children, three of whom are young adults and one is 11 years old in Redhill, Surrey. There are schools, shops, library and a park within walking distance.

The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding with one room designated as a playroom. There is an enclosed rear garden. The family has one dog and three cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and there are currently seven children on roll on a part-time basis.

The childminder is happy to collect from local schools, attends toddler group and takes children to the local park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are healthy due to the excellent practice followed by the childminder. She teaches children the importance of hand washing routines and provides liquid soap and individual cloths to dry hands. This promotes children's awareness of good hygiene practice and self help skills. The childminder remains alert to reinforce good practice as necessary to give children a thorough understanding of good hygiene.

Children increase their understanding about a healthy lifestyle by helping to prepare food and by participating in cooking activities with the childminder. The childminder provides snacks and meals that are nutritious and varied; she takes account of the parents' wishes and the children's choices. Children can access drinks independently whenever they need to, which helps them recognise and respond to their body's needs. The childminder checks water consumption encouraging those children that have not had much, to drink a little more.

Children thrive on being physically active. They enjoy regular fresh air and exercise, necessary for their well-being, when out and about within the local community. They take part in many activities that promote their physical skills, such as, active sports, using the trampoline in the garden and walks to local parks. Their fine motor control is actively encouraged through daily routines and activities. They operate small toys effectively with good control, such as the car and the computerised garage. Children rest and sleep according to their personal needs in individual bedding and snuggle up to a favourite toy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a homely and cheerful environment where they safely access resources on their own. The childminder displays children's artwork for others to see, valuing their contributions. Children play with a vast range of very suitable toys and resources, which the childminder rotates regularly to develop new interests and skills.

Children are extremely well protected due to stringent safety measures both inside and outside the home. Comprehensive risk assessment and health and safety policies ensure the home is maintained to a high standard. Children move freely around the playroom and garden and are extremely well supervised at all times. Children learn house rules and good practice to avoid accidental injury and they develop a caring nature through the good role model of the childminder. As a result, older children avoid playing with small items when they are playing near younger children.

Children are extremely well protected because the childminder understands her role in safeguarding children and keeps her knowledge up to date because she attends courses. Effective procedures advise parents of their responsibility and the childminder knows how to record and refer any concerns. Up-to-date contact details regarding a referral are recorded in

her child protection procedures. This ensures the childminder acts in the best interest to safeguard the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The extremely good range of resources and activities provide exciting opportunities for children to acquire new knowledge, develop new skills and enjoy purposeful play. Children are developing their independence, confidence and self-esteem effectively, because the childminder provides lots of praise and encouragement and supports them extremely well. Children are relaxed, happy and are not hurried but allowed time to finish an activity totally at their own pace. The extremely good range of resources and the excellent activities provide exciting opportunities for children to enjoy meaningful play. For example, children thoroughly enjoy being involved in inset puzzles confidently identifying pictures or repeating the name of familiar pictures. They confidently match them to items of clothing or objects around the home. Older children participate in a very wide range of creative media fully benefiting from the range of activities on offer.

The childminder is extremely attentive to the needs of the children and ensures they have a varied and balanced programme of activities. She has an excellent understanding of child development and uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan an excellent range of activities and play opportunities. She uses observations effectively to meet the individual needs of all children to ensure they make progress in their learning. She effectively uses her training in childcare and her commitment to update training to enhance and guide her childminding practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has established excellent partnerships with parents by establishing clear communication and a flexible service to meet the individual family needs. This ensures all children are welcome, fully included in the life of the setting and have their individual needs met. Parents are kept fully informed about the provision and their children's care and progress. Parents appreciate and highly value the quality of care and early education their children receive and the excellent links that are established. Parents particularly appreciate the homely environment, family atmosphere and the kind and gentle nature of the childminder.

All children are valued and cared for according to their individual needs. They learn to share and take turns and work harmoniously together. Children learn, and follow established rules because they are clear and children understand the reasons for them. As a result, children's behaviour is exemplary. Adults and children form strong bonds very quickly which results in children being calm and very well settled.

Children all have equal access to toys and activities and they receive equal attention from the childminder. They begin to learn about differences within society as they have access to a very good range of resources reflecting positive images of culture and diversity.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's safety and welfare is extremely well maintained by the childminder having a clear understanding of the National Standards and her responsibilities to the children and their parents. Appropriate training, including first aid training and safeguarding children is maintained so that she can respond effectively to any health issues and to protect children in her care. Children are supervised at all times to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

Children use the space within the home well and with great confidence. Excellent organisation prior to children arriving ensures their environment is ready and welcoming, which contributes to them adjusting to a different setting quickly and engaging in exciting, age appropriate play activities.

Children are safeguarded by sound written policies and information provided by the childminder, who ensures all information held on the children is regularly updated in line with parents' wishes. Overall, the needs of the children attending are well met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, two recommendations were made to ensure a full record of children's medical history is maintained and updated regularly and a risk assessment is undertaken if children are to use the garden.

The childminder has fully implemented both recommendations by ensuring children's full medical history is sought from parents and updated on a regular basis. A clear written risk assessment has been completed on the use of the garden and hazards have been identified and made safe. This ensures the safety and well being of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The childminder 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:

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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