



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120539
Inspection date	12 September 2006
Inspector	Hazel Stuart-Buddery

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 1998. She lives with her husband and three children in Ashford, Middlesex. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder takes children to the local toddler group and to the local park. The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the Surrey Childminding Network and a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained environment where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene. All children understand the importance of washing hands at appropriate times and are protected from the spread of infection as all children have separate towels, flannels and bedding. Effective nappy changing procedures protect younger children from infection. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, this means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. All required documentation is in place, this ensures children are cared for in accordance to parents' wishes.

Children enjoy healthy, nutritious meals provided mainly by their parents. Children make their own choices about what snacks to have and happily help prepare strawberries and grapes. Children talk about why eating fruit is good for them and begin to learn about healthy eating from a young age. Children learn the importance of cleaning teeth, they talk about how and why they need to keep their teeth healthy and colour pictures of teeth to take home as a reminder.

Children have daily opportunities to go on walks and trips to the park. They develop their physical skills as they complete daily exercises. Children laugh and smile happily as they stretch their arms up high, make star shapes and crouch as low as they can.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a well-organised, accessible and safe environment. The childminder has identified and minimized hazards around the home. This allows children to move around freely and safely. They have easy and safe access to an excellent range of age appropriate resources and activities that are well maintained.

Children are well protected from the risk of fire. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place. Children are aware of the fire escape plan and practise it on a regular basis, this ensures children know how to get out quickly and safely should they need to.

Children enjoy going on regular outings and excitedly recall their trip on a train last week. Regular discussions with the childminder ensures they have a good awareness about keeping themselves safe while out and about. For example, children explain why they must hold hands or stay close while out walking and understand what the consequences are if they do not. Effective child protection procedures promote and safeguard children's welfare while they are in the childminder's care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well motivated and eager to try new challenges. They are confident and have excellent communication with each other and the childminder. They enthusiastically respond to the suggestion of making butterflies and necklaces. All children sit together at the table and patiently wait for instructions on how to make the butterfly. They listen carefully to the instructions and follow them well. The childminder takes this opportunity to encourage the children to count and practise their colour recognition. Children show high levels of self-esteem and respond positively to the constant praise and encouragement given to them by the childminder. The childminder interacts effectively, balancing her time well to allow children to use and develop their own imagination. For example, the childminder suggests the children play hairdressers, she then sits back and watches the children use their imagination as they use her as a model. The children smile with delight as they style her hair with brushes, combs and a hairdryer.

The childminder is committed to providing highly stimulating resources and activities that ensure children make excellent progress in their development and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated fairly and with respect by the childminder. A good range of resources reflect diversity and discussions with the childminder about differences help children gain a balanced view of the world. For example, children talk about how houses in other countries differ from their own.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear guidelines for behaviour. Children respond positively to praise and encouragement. They all take time to recognise each others achievements and offer praise when younger children correctly name colours. Children know what is expected of them and are well behaved.

The childminder has a friendly and professional approach with parents. She discusses the children's needs thoroughly to ensure individual needs are met and continuity of care is offered. A full set of comprehensive written policies are shared with parents along with detailed information about the setting. A daily diary, that parents can see, is kept at the setting showing what the children have done. These measures promote a good partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children thrive in a child friendly, caring environment. They are happy, relaxed and very settled. Children receive appropriate levels of support from the childminder and good relationships are fostered.

Children benefit from a wide range of stimulating and creative resources that promote their development in all areas. The childminder has a good attitude towards her on-going development

and has completed many workshops and courses to enhance her knowledge and understanding of childcare and education.

The childminder maintains her paperwork well and provides all parents with full copies of her policies and procedures. All required documentation is in place and further supporting documentation promotes good practice. However, written consent to take children on extended outings is not always obtained from parents. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

No recommendations made on last inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1st April 2004 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to take children on extended outings, particularly where public transport is used.

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