



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	507321
Inspection date	20 November 2006
Inspector	Felicity Gaff
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 satisfactory. 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. He lives with his wife and adult daughter near Redhill, Surrey. The whole house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has three cats. The childminder drives to take and collect children from school. The childminders are registered for a maximum of 10 children. Currently they care for five children between them. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. He minds with a co-childminder who has overall responsibility for the childminding practice, while he works in a supportive role. The childminder receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works closely with his co-childminder to ensure children have suitable opportunities for outdoor activity. For instance, children learn to enjoy a healthy lifestyle as they walk to local attractions such as a nearby pond to feed the ducks and swans. Children are suitably protected from illness and infection as they are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment and there are good procedures to protect children from hazards associated with pets. The childminder works closely with parents and his co-childminder to ensure he is familiar with children's individual health needs. He does not complete records of accidents or medication as his co-childminder takes overall responsibility for maintaining the required documentation. Children receive well balanced home cooked meals in accordance with their parents' wishes, and both childminders work flexibly to ensure their dietary needs are fully met. The childminder provides good support to help babies learn to feed themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe because they are cared for in spacious, appropriately furnished, warm and welcoming premises. There is a dedicated bedroom for naps or for children who stay overnight, which is well arranged to provide a welcoming environment. Most routine safety precautions are in place, although the fire blanket is not correctly fitted, which restricts how effectively it can be used in an emergency. Children have easy, safe access to a stimulating range of high quality play materials, which are attractively presented in a dedicated playroom. The childminder follows suitable safety procedures such as using age appropriate seats in the car, and young children are protected on walks through the use of wrist straps. The childminder has a basic awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect but his uncertainty about the procedures to be followed limits his ability to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminders' close liaison with children's parents enable them to work together to pay a great deal of attention to individual children's needs. They create a happy, vibrant atmosphere and offer consistent care that responds to each child as an individual. Children take part in a wide range of stimulating outings and activities. Children are secure and relaxed; they approach the childminder confidently for reassurance, stories, and assistance with activities such as puzzles. They delight in the success he helps them to achieve. The childminder intervenes skilfully to help children solve minor disagreements. For example, he uses effective techniques such as explanation, encouragement and praise to enable two young children to take turns with a popular toy. The childminder encourages children to talk about what they do and listens carefully to what they say. He uses everyday activities such as outings to the pond to count and compare the ducks and swans. As a result, children develop very good speech and language

skills. There are suitable arrangements for overnight care, although the childminder takes a supporting role in organising this.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn to respect their own needs and those of other people. They know they are valued in the childminders' home as their photographs are attractively framed and prominently displayed. Play materials supporting different themes are carefully grouped in separate bags and children play an active part in the setting as they decide which bags to use. Displays and play resources provide positive images of the ethnic and cultural diversity of modern Britain. There are realistic dolls representing a variety of ethnic groups, and good quality dressing up clothes, reflecting a range of cultural traditions. The childminders use these to help children develop a respect for difference. The childminder is experienced in caring for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and supports his co-childminder well in ensuring children's individual needs are well met. The childminders create very strong, long-term relationships with children and their families, which enable them to offer a consistent service over many years. Parents trust their skill and professionalism and are delighted with the care their children receive. The childminder provides a very positive male role model to the children, which is particularly valued by the parents of boys. Children begin to learn how to behave and play harmoniously together. They reflect the example of the childminders in their responses to each other. For instance, an older child explained gently to a younger one, 'No, don't snatch; say please'. Children reflect the courtesy and consideration shown towards them in their dealings with each other.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides. He works flexibly with his co-childminder to ensure adult:child ratios are always met and that children are protected from people who have not been vetted. All the documentation needed to support children's welfare is maintained to a high standard. However, the childminder does not take responsibility for this. He lacks familiarity with the required records and how they are organised, which limits his ability to maintain them appropriately.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to complete an appropriate first aid course. He has now completed training in first aid for infants and young children, which improves his ability to safeguard children's well being, and holds a current first aid certificate.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- improve awareness of child protection issues
- ensure a fire blanket is correctly fitted and readily accessible for use in an emergency
- improve understanding of all the required documentation in order to complete records appropriately and access information readily

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