



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	507322
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 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 1994. She lives with her husband 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. She sometimes minds with a co-childminder who shares the care of the children. The childminder has overall responsibility for the childminding practice. She receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder organises the care of the children and works closely with her 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 her co-childminder, and keeps very clear records, to ensure children's individual health needs are fully met. Children are well nourished because they receive well balanced, home cooked meals and snacks in accordance with their parents' wishes, and both childminders work flexibly to ensure their dietary needs are fully met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

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 visits the Early Learning exhibition each year to find out about and buy up-to-date play materials to enhance her provision. 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. She has a clear understanding of her responsibilities for safeguarding children but is uncertain of how to report allegations of abuse or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder coordinates the work of her co-childminder well and they liaise closely with children's parents. As a result, they provide a consistent, reliable service to children and their parents where children's individuality is known and cherished in a happy, vibrant atmosphere. Children flourish in all aspects of their development as she organises a wide range of stimulating outings and activities. The childminder builds on her extensive experience to develop her already skilful practice by undertaking many training courses. She combines her knowledge of child development with a system of reflective practice to continually improve the quality of the care she and her co-childminder offer. She plans and records what children do, basing her records on both the Birth to Three Matters framework and on the Foundation Stage. She shares her assessments with parents and uses them to identify areas for further development. Her professional approach to her work particularly enhances the focused, individual care she provides for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Her sensitivity to children's individual

needs and her childcare expertise helps all the children to develop their full potential. The childminder takes responsibility for organising overnight care and establishes good systems for ensuring children's routines and rituals are known and respected.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

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. The childminder organises play materials supporting different themes into carefully grouped, separate bags, and children play an active part in the setting as they decide which bags they will use. She seeks out very high quality resources and creates attractive displays that provide positive images of the ethnic and cultural diversity of modern Britain. For instance, she ensures that dolls realistically represent a variety of ethnic groups, and that attractive dressing up clothes, suitable for children of different ages, represent a range of cultural traditions. She uses these imaginatively with the children to help them develop a respect for difference. The childminder works very effectively with parents to ensure the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are met. She organises the work of her co-childminder to enable both of them to respond to the needs of children at different ages and stages of development. She seeks out information and resources to enhance her ability to meet specific needs, and perseveres in obtaining training when it is not at first readily available. The childminders create very strong, long-term relationships with children and their families. They take their commitments to children and their families seriously and offer a reliable and consistent service over many years. Parents are delighted with the high quality care their children receive and are fully informed about what their children do. The childminder makes time for an informal exchange of information every day and supplements this with detailed daily diaries for each pre-school child. 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 outstanding.

The childminder fully understands the conditions of her registration and takes the initiative in ensuring she meets them at all times. For instance, when parents' working patterns change, she applies promptly and clearly for variations. She ensures her co-childminder will be available when necessary. This ensures children have sufficient adult support at all times to promote their well-being. She finds out about and undertakes a wide range of training opportunities and has completed an approved quality assurance scheme. As a result, she has developed her awareness of children's needs and how to meet them. She plans the organisation of the high quality play resources she provides to enhance children's learning. She completes comprehensive written records of children's developmental progress and shares them with parents. All the required documentation to support children's welfare is in place and maintained to a high standard. The excellent organisation of all aspects of the childminding service allows children

to thrive in her care. 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):

- improve awareness of child protection issues
- ensure fire blanket is correctly fitted and readily accessible for use in an emergency

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