



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY236476
Inspection date	05 October 2006
Inspector	Ann Moss
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 2002. She lives with her husband and four children aged two, five, seven and eight years in Guildford Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler group. The family has a pet rabbit and tortoises.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop well emotionally in a warm and caring environment, where they receive lots of cuddles and praise. They settle well as their individual routines are taken account of, such as sleep times. The childminder protects children from cross-infection and sickness through the appropriate procedures in place, which she shares with parents. However, written parental permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency advice or treatment has yet to be obtained. This means parents' wishes are not being fully met.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute well to their good health. They have daily access to fresh air and exercise as they play in the garden. During regular trips to the park and tumble tots they practise their climbing, balancing and jumping skills.

Children learn about healthy eating options because the childminder provides snacks, such as fresh fruit, apples and kiwis and have frequent drinks. They learn about personal hygiene as the childminder talks about the importance of hand washing and maintaining healthy teeth.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play indoors in a safe, secure and welcoming environment. Space is organised effectively so children gain independence as they move around independently, selecting what they wish to play with from the wide range of good quality toys and resources easily available to them.

The childminder is vigilant in ensuring children's safety at all times and keeps them within her sight and hearing. She risk assesses the home sufficiently, although she has not yet fitted her fire blanket in accordance with safety recommendations. She takes children to safe venues and encourages children's understanding of safety through explanation and rules.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues. She is aware of possible signs and symptoms of child abuse and the procedures to follow if she has a concern. She updates her knowledge through training and informs parents of her role.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settle well and have a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. Children experience a stimulating range of activities which contribute well to their development inside and outside the home. They are keen to participate in their self chosen activities, and enthusiastically clear the table ready to play with play dough. Children develop good hand eye co-ordination and dexterity as they manipulate small tools, rolling pins and cutters. Children show good levels of concentration as they complete puzzles. They are beginning to recognise colour and shape, and repeat the names as they mark-make. Children respond well to the

childminder whose enthusiastic interaction during their activities encourages them to communicate and develop their play. Children develop good levels of confidence and self-esteem through the praise and encouragement they receive during their play. Children participate in regular outings, for example, to the park, friends or tumble tots. This enables them to develop important social skills and learn to share and negotiate with others. Children benefit from the childminder's attendance at the 'Birth to three matters' course, which she is beginning to implement into her practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel valued and respected as individuals. The childminder is very aware of the likes and dislikes of each child and provides suitable activities. Children have access to all toys which they play with in a non-judgemental way. Children's awareness of the wider world is increasing through their regular outings and the use of resources and activities, which can be freely accessed.

The childminder has suitable strategies in place to promote good behaviour, which she shares with parents. Children are friendly and play alongside each other happily. This develops self-esteem through the childminder valuing what they say and praising their efforts.

Partnerships with parents are well established. Children's welfare is discussed at the beginning and end of the day, together with a written daily diary for more detailed information. This together with the sensitive settling-in process helps children settle well and ensures that individual needs are well met. Written agreements are clear and details of the children are regularly updated. Policies and procedures are shared verbally. However, the childminder has not shared her complaints procedures, consequently, parents are not aware how their complaints will be handled.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children take pleasure from the homely environment. They receive good support from the childminder who organises space, resources and use of time effectively to support their individual needs. They settle very well to their activities in the play room, where they can easily and safely access their toys. They enjoy the close interaction of the childminder, who is able to ensure they receive plenty of support during their activities due to her maintaining good ratios.

Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to undertake training to update her knowledge of current childminding practice and reinforce her provision. Regulatory requirements are met and the documentation relating to the safety, welfare and health of the children is in place, except for an omission in written consent for seeking emergency advice or treatment.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to keep and maintain all required documentation for the safe and efficient management and welfare of children. The childminder has now implemented effective systems for detailing the service agreement between both parties for the care of children. She records children's attendance when children are on the premises. Also, she records all medication/accidents and asks parents to sign to acknowledge entry. This safeguards their children's well-being.

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):

- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- make sure the fire blanket is hung in accordance with manufactures instructions
- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint

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