



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	121465
Inspection date	13 December 2006
Inspector	Elaine Simmons
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 has been registered since 1977. She lives with her husband and one adult child in a semi detached house in the village of Merstham in Surrey. The property is situated in a residential area with local amenities such as shops, schools and a station close by. The family have one cat and one dog.

Minding takes place on the ground floor only. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder currently cares for 6 children aged from 1 year to 7 years on a full time and part time basis over the course of the week, some children attend during term time only.

The childminder is qualified in first aid and has attended various training courses organised by Surrey Early Years and Childcare Service. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from the childminder's good hygiene procedures. She ensures their hands are cleaned with wipes before they eat. She provides children with their own individual towel which is hung on a named peg in the cloakroom. The childminder is aware of the hazards that pets in the home can cause and ensures these are minimised successfully. Children's health is further protected by her sound sickness policy and the ample recording of accidents and any medication administered.

Children are taken to parent and carer toddler groups by the childminder in the mornings, this provides them with an area where they can play freely and move around unhindered. The childminder also takes the children out everyday when she walks the dog ensuring, they have plenty of fresh air and providing them with suitable opportunities to promote their physical wellbeing.

Parents provide children with a packed lunch and snacks, which the childminder stores appropriately to keep them fresh. She gives the children their snacks at suitable intervals during the day. She supervises them eating their lunch to promote healthy eating, and provides them with sugar free juice as a drink, or tea for older children who attend after school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a secure and homely environment. Children mostly play in the dining room where they have a large selection of clean, safe toys, puzzles and books to play with. These are suitable for the ages and stages of development of the children attending. The children benefit from being able to independently choose toys because they are suitably stored around the room.

The childminder provides children with constant supervision when in the garden to ensure their safety. This is because she has a small pond, that is covered with netting, and two shed's one of which is not securely fastened, and consequently these could be hazardous to children. Children are further protected by her suitable procedures when playing in her home: she ensures all areas are clean before children arrive so that she can see if anything is out of place; she provides a secure safety gate between the kitchen and dining room to prevent children from accessing the kitchen unless supervised. The children are also encouraged to replace toys that they are no longer playing with, to make sure the dining room is not cluttered, preventing them from tripping or falling over.

The childminder has a reasonable understanding of all child protection requirements. She understands the signs and symptoms of abuse and whom to contact should she feel concerned about a child. As a consequence children's welfare is suitably protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy playing with the childminders large range of toys. They are able to choose independently from the selection around the room. They have good opportunities to socialise with other children because the childminder takes them regularly to local parent and toddler groups, one of which she helps to organise.

The childminder is a member of a childminder network and takes children to activities organised by them during the summer. They visit farms, where the children enjoy playing in physical activity areas. She has a varied range of outside toys and equipment that children can play with in her garden. They also benefit from visits to the local park, where they can play on the swings and run freely within a safe environment.

The children have opportunities to watch favourite videos of television characters. After school children use this activity as a way to unwind and relax after a hectic school day. They also enjoy playing with fuzzy felts, completing puzzles and reading books together. The childminder reads stories to the younger children and encourages and enjoys listening to older children reading to her and this helps to promote their confidence.

The childminder is very attentive towards the children encouraging and praising them as they achieve. For example the younger child sat alone and completed a slot in puzzle, the childminder gave the child lots of praise. She also discussed the shapes and colours of a toy as she and the child sat together to slot the pieces into place. This helps to promote children's learning and build their self esteem successfully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a basic range of toys and books, provided by the childminder, that reflect the cultural diversity of the modern world around them. The childminder is willing to challenge racist and sexist remarks appropriately and to help children to accept that some people are different. She suitably meets children's individual needs and is caring towards them. She has some experience of supporting children with special needs and takes into consideration her ability to meet these needs, and the needs of the children she cares for already.

Children behave well because the childminder provides good supervision. She gives children good explanations and allows them time to think about what they have done. She teaches children good manners encouraging them to say please and thank you. Children are also encouraged to say sorry when they have hurt somebody. These strategies help children to understand right from wrong.

Parents are given some written information about their child's day by the childminder. She writes a daily contact diary for parents of very young children and provides all parents with a clear contract that explains her childminding service. She encourages parents to exchange information with her verbally to ensure children are given appropriate care at all times.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are happy and settled in the childminder's homely environment. She is attentive and caring towards the children, supporting them in their play, which helps to promote their learning and development.

Most documentation is in order. However, the childminder does not always record children's attendance daily and as a consequence records are not always accurate and kept up to date. She understands the adult to child ratios and ensures these are met to promote children's safety. Sufficient information about the children and suitable permission is obtained from parents to adequately protect children's welfare. Records are stored securely in well ordered files and kept confidentially in the office upstairs. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous child care inspection the childminder agreed to: ensure all household members over 16 years undergo vetting procedures; ensure the fire blanket is positioned in accordance with Fire Safety recommendations; ensure the lock in the toilet is inaccessible to children; she was also asked to improve pond safety and to obtain a list of notifiable infectious diseases.

The childminder has suitably positioned the fire blanket and has made sure it is secured; the pond has been covered with netting; and the lock on the toilet door has been made safe. The one remaining adult child residing in the home had all checks completed under the local authority. The childminder has obtained a guidance on infectious diseases from the local authority. As a consequence children's wellbeing is suitably protected.

Complaints since the last inspection

Complaints:

Since the last inspection there has been one complaint made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take action in order to meet the National Standards.

Ofsted received a concern on 24 March 2006 regarding supervision of a minded child. This concern related to National Standards 1 (suitable person) and 6 (safety). Ofsted wrote to the childminder on 27 March 2006 asking her to investigate the concern and provide Ofsted with a report of her findings. We received her report on 3 April 2006 and deemed her response to be appropriate. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

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:

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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):

- minimise the hazards in the garden
- ensure the daily attendance register is accurate and kept up to date.

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