



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120371
Inspection date	03 November 2006
Inspector	Patricia Jane Daniels
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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and three school-aged children in Addlestone. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have one pet cat.

There are currently no children on roll.

The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates understanding of how children's health is promoted. She describes how they would learn about hygiene through routines, such as washing their hands before eating. The childminder has first aid training, which means that children have access to appropriate treatment in case of accident. She has a system in place to obtain written consent to administer medication. However, she does not always keep an accurate record of medicines given to children. She has a suitable sick child policy to ensure that children who are unwell would not present a source of infection to others.

The childminder is happy to provide meals and snacks in line with parents' wishes. She explains that she would promote healthy eating by offering a healthy menu of home cooked meals. She would encourage children to eat fresh fruit and vegetables daily. Children could help themselves to a drink during hot weather. They would be offered drinks at regular intervals through the day, so that they would not become thirsty.

The childminder recognises the importance of regular opportunities for physical play. Children would visit the park and play in the garden when the weather is fine. Physical activity indoors would be provided at the toddler group, where children could play on the sit and ride toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children would be cared for in a home where they have space to move around and rest undisturbed. They could select from a range of suitable toys presented to be easily accessible. The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks in and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. For example, she stores potential hazards out of children's reach and keeps the front door locked for security. She explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety through discussion, for example by talking with them about road safety when out.

The childminder has a reasonable understanding of her role in safeguarding children, but her knowledge is not secure in all areas. For example, she is unsure of procedures to be followed if allegations of child abuse are made and she has not informed parents of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder talks about how she would provide a routine that offers opportunities for active and quieter times, with due regard for regular meals and rest times. The children would be involved in a range of planned activities such as visits to the toddler group, and times at home for free play. The childminder talks about how she would offer a balance of activities. For example; story time, creative, physical and role-play. She describes how she would help

children to learn their colours during everyday activities, and would ask them questions to encourage their imagination.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder showed understanding of behaviour management, and gave examples of how she would use distraction and explanation to manage behaviour. Children's good behaviour would be endorsed with praise and the childminder would present a positive role model. Children's individual needs would be sought from parents, so that the childminder would understand how to meet their needs from the start.

The childminder would make time for daily conversations with parents, so that relevant information could be exchanged. This would support continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All persons living with the childminder and over the age of sixteen years have had a relevant check, which ensures that children have contact with suitably vetted adults. The childminder has not attended any training to update her knowledge of childcare, apart from first aid.

The childminder demonstrates understanding of the records and documents that need to be kept to meet regulations and promote the children's health and safety. However, in the past she has not always recorded medication that was given to children.

Overall, evidence suggests that the childminder would meet the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, Ofsted requested that improvements should be made relating to being healthy, staying safe, positive contribution and organisation.

All adults having regular access to children have undergone checks to ensure their suitability. The childminder has undertaken training in first aid. The bathroom lock has been removed and the garden is made safe before children play outside. Used tissues are disposed of immediately and the bowls containing cat food and litter are removed when minded children are present. Some resources reflecting society's diversity have been purchased for the children. The childminder does not have groups of older children in the house, which could affect the younger children in her care. These actions have improved the quality of care that would be provided for minded children.

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

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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):

- update knowledge of safeguarding children
- ensure all required documentation relating to the safety, health and welfare of the children is in place and well maintained
- update knowledge of current childcare practice.

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