



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY102876
Inspection date	20 October 2006
Inspector	Linda Close
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 has been registered since 2002. She lives with her husband and two children in a semi-detached house in a residential road in Walton-on-Thames. The local authority is Surrey. Childminding takes place in all rooms on the ground floor of the house except the lounge. One bedroom on the first floor is equipped with a travel cot for sleeping babies. There is a fully enclosed garden with a patio and a grassed area for outdoor play. Three children under two years of age were present at the time of this inspection. The childminder takes children on regular outings to a toddler group and to other places of interest.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's continuing good health is particularly well supported by the childminder. She provides clean hand towels for older children and disposable wet wipes for the younger children to prevent cross-infection. Children's nappies are changed following a meticulously hygienic routine. Paper covers are used on the changing mat for all nappy changes, the mat is carefully cleaned for each child and disposable gloves are worn. The children learn about good hygiene from an early age. The childminder explains why they wash or wipe their hands before eating and when returning home after school or from outings. They also learn to wipe their noses and throw away the tissues at once and even the very youngest children learn to cover their mouths if they cough. A detailed written procedure is in place for the administration of medication and for what happens when children are unwell. Consequently parents are well aware of the need to give written permissions for medication and they know they must keep their children at home if they are unwell or infectious.

Children are seen to enjoy their meals immensely. They eat with relish and are learning to feed themselves very efficiently. The childminder reheats food provided by parents taking great care to check and record the internal temperature of each dish with a food thermometer to ensure it has reached the optimum temperature. Food is then cooled so the children can enjoy it without burning their mouths. If required the childminder provides a good range of tasty meals and healthy snacks for the children. She is well informed about nutrition and she encourages children to sip water throughout the day. A detailed food diary is maintained for older children and a personal diary is kept for each child so that all parents are fully informed about their own child's intake of food and drink each day. Children's individual dietary needs are very carefully met.

Children have very well planned opportunities to take healthy exercise. They attend weekly soft play sessions for energetic play. On other days they go to a playgroup to play lively games with other children and to use wheeled toys. On the days the children are at the childminder's home they play in the garden with wheeled toys and balls. She helps the youngest children to find their feet as soon as they are able. They stand and walk with help using push-a-long toys. When they are crawling she places interesting toys just out of reach to encourage them to move about. The childminder is very well informed about the different stages of children's physical development. With her support the children make very good progress at their own individual level.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into a very clean, bright home environment where children can play and rest in comfort. Children are secure in the home because the doors are kept locked and they are unable to go outside unnoticed. The childminder has assessed all of the rooms in her home for safety and she keeps a clearly written record of her assessment for parents to share. She has removed obvious hazards such as sharp or heavy objects. Children cannot access knives or

cleaning materials in any rooms in the home. However, in spite of safety checks the children risk slipping when wearing socks on smooth laminated floor coverings.

Children of all ages have a large number of toys. Shelving and storage boxes are thoughtfully arranged to ensure that younger children cannot reach toys with small parts meant for older children. Children can easily make choices and decisions about what they will play with. The toys are numerous, clean and seen to be in good condition. However, the youngest children's toys are predominantly made of man-made materials. Their toys and resources in the home are not designed to fully stimulate their imagination.

The childminder has attended child protection training to keep her knowledge up to date. She is well informed about what signs or symptoms suggest ill-treatment. She is confident in her knowledge of what steps to take if she has concerns for the children in her care. The childminder has a written procedure in place that she shares with parents that details her responsibilities as a registered childminder.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their play with the childminder. Their activities and the way in which the childminder supports their learning are clearly linked to the Birth to three matters framework. Worthwhile observed activities include play with toy animals and the children show their growing knowledge of what the animals are called and what noise each one makes. They eagerly respond to questions about position. They show that they already know the meaning of 'under' and 'in' and they are learning the meaning of 'next to' and 'beside' with valuable help from the childminder. Very young children eagerly respond to the childminder with a variety of noises when she encourages them to vocalise in play.

Children share books with the childminder and they enjoy looking at the pictures. They happily take part in games that require them to add the final word at the end of a familiar rhyme such as 'Hey Diddle Diddle'. Children enjoy mark making with paint when they visit the playgroup. They make marks with crayons on paper in the childminder's home and they show a keen interest in this activity. Children press buttons with confidence on their battery operated toys. They laugh aloud when the toys make different noises. They also explore the noises they can make with percussion instruments. The childminder helps children to learn about numbers and counting in their play. Children do not have sufficient access to resources made of natural materials in the childminder's home to enhance their imaginative play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit exceptionally well from the childminder's approach to working with parents and carers. They are assured of continuity of care because she consults parents about each child's individual needs in relation to all aspects of their care and learning. Their health and dietary needs are well documented and a daily record of their intake of food and drink ensures that parents know about their needs later in the day. The childminder supports parents and

their children well by adjusting her days to meet their changing needs in relation to their work patterns. She maintains a very informative file of documents for parents that gives detailed information about her provision and how she approaches aspects of care such as behaviour management and infection control. In addition she compiles a book of photographs of each child at play during their time in her care. This pictorial record is supplemented by an individual notebook which is filled with notes about children's responses to their activities. This wealth of information helps parents to work hand-in-hand with the childminder to support children in their development and learning.

Each child is assured of help and support to meet their individual needs. The childminder is careful not to compare the children in her care. Each child is valued and the childminder is well aware that progress through the stages of development are different for each one of them. Although she has no experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities, her approach to meeting the needs of the individual stands her in good stead to meet the needs of each child who joins her. Children learn to understand and respect diversity through discussion, play with a good range of toys and through craft activities at their toddler group and at the childminder's home.

Children's behaviour is managed very effectively. They learn basic 'house rules' through explanation and good example. They are involved in helping to tidy away their toys and show pleasure when they are warmly thanked and praised. Little children are quickly distracted if they want the toys that other children are playing with. Through observation it is evident that the children are happy, contented and learning to get along with their playmates very well.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Adults in the family were checked for suitability at the time of registration. The childminder ensures that children are not left in the care of any person who has not been vetted. The childminder is keen to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of developments in childcare. She attends useful training courses to enable her to keep children safe and to develop her knowledge of children's development and how to help children to make the best progress. She has devised a useful spreadsheet to share with parents so that they can see how many children she cares for each day. This record also helps her to ensure that she remains within the conditions of her registration at all times.

Space in the home is organised to give children room to move, rest and play. Toys and resources are arranged to give them access to suitable playthings. However, the range of toys that is available is limited in some ways. The childminder has carried out a comprehensive risk assessment of the areas of her home used for childminding. She has taken appropriate steps to make her home safe in most respects.

The childminder has impeccably presented information for parents and carers to inform them about all aspects of the care that she provides. She maintains all of the required records in good order and makes them readily available for inspection. The setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure good hygiene practices are followed regarding hand drying. Children do not now share towels which prevents cross-infection. Older children wash their hands and use their own towel. Younger children have their hands cleaned with wet-wipes.

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):

- provide a range of natural materials for children to handle and explore
- ensure that children are safe on smooth floor surfaces in the home

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