



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	121229
Inspection date	22 December 2006
Inspector	Michelle Julie Gutter
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 registered in 1992. She lives with her family in a house in Shepperton. She is registered to care for six children under the age of eight years at any one time. Currently there are six children on roll. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Local parks, shops and schools are within easy walking distance. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have a cat. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well-protected from illness and infection, as the childminder maintains a clean and healthy environment. She ensures that nappies are disposed of hygienically and that the

changing mat and children's toys are thoroughly cleaned to prevent cross-infection. First stage baby toys are kept separate from the older children and this maintains the cleanliness of the equipment. The childminder makes sure that children cannot reach the cat's dishes as they are placed out of the children's reach. Most of the required documentation is in place which means that the children are cared for in accordance with parents' wishes, however the accident book lacks details about the injury sustained.

The daily routine is carefully planned to ensure children have ample time to play in the fresh air and undertake regular exercise. Children play in the garden enabling them to run about and move around freely. Children regularly visit local parks and toddler groups to enable them to climb and use a range of physical play resources. This enables children to undertake frequent and robust exercise to enhance their physical well-being. They develop balance and co-ordination as they play on the swings and climbing apparatus. Children benefit from trips to the seaside and the open air paddling pool during the summer months.

Babies and younger children have planned times for sleep and naps, to ensure they have plentiful rest to promote their healthy growth and development. Children have their own freshly-laundered bedding. They use baby wipes to clean their faces and paper towels to dry their hands after washing and this prevents cross-infection. A poster displayed in the bathroom reminds children to wash their hands after toileting. They understand the importance of reducing the risk of passing on germs.

Children's dietary needs are well catered for. They have frequent drinks and eat healthy snacks, such as fresh fruit. Older children access drinking water freely, enabling them to respond to their body's needs when they recognise they are thirsty. Meal times are regarded as sociable occasions and children enjoy a healthy range of home-cooked, nutritious meals. Babies and younger children sit at the table with older children and adults, to enable them to develop good habits in using table manners and develop positive attitudes towards healthy eating. Young babies are held in the childminder's arms as they are fed their formula milk, from a bottle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in an organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. Children benefit from easy and safe access to a range of age-appropriate toys and resources to encourage their independence.

Children are well protected from the risk of fire. A fire blanket is wall mounted in the kitchen and the smoke alarms are regularly tested. A written fire evacuation procedure is displayed and children take part in fire drills. This helps children to understand what to do in the event of an emergency.

The outdoor area is safe for children to enjoy fresh air and to have opportunities to develop large motor skills. Children run around freely and enjoy playing football in an open space. Parents give written permission for the childminder to take the children in the car and on outings.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and fully understands the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. This promotes and safeguards children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with interesting and exciting activities, such as making home cooked biscuits and creating Father Christmas pictures. The children play purposefully with their chosen activity. The childminder supports and encourages them, giving lots of positive praise. The children are confident, inquisitive and communicate freely with the childminder. They play happily in the playroom, sitting with the childminder threading tiny coloured beads onto threads. The children name the colours of the beads on their thread with excitement. They call out "pink, red, purple, blue, black and green". The childminder helps make the activity more interesting by asking the children to look for the orange and yellow beads. They do this well. The children talk confidently and appear very proud when they show off and wear their beautiful necklaces and bracelet that they have made.

Young babies engage in purposeful activities, enabling them to be highly stimulated and confident in the childminder's care. They lay on an activity mat under the play gym and kick their legs with excitement as they knock the toys hanging in front of them with their arms. They enjoy challenges and develop confidence to try new things and gain new skills, as the childminder allows them to explore, experiment and develop interest and curiosity. Young babies use great concentration as they sit with the childminder listening to the music and watching the bright flashing lights on the activity toy.

Children develop in a stimulating environment, where the childminder provides a good range of activities. The children's learning is constantly extended by the childminder's skill of questioning and talking to them about the activities they are engaged in. The childminder exchanges verbal information about the children's development on a daily basis, this helps the parents to be aware of their children's achievements and identifies any areas for improvement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder helps children to learn about themselves through discussion and talking about events that have happened in their lives. Children are valued, respected and treated as individuals. Children are developing a positive attitude to others. They talk about things that have happened to them in their every day life both recently and in the past. Children have access to a range of play resources which show positive images of diversity such as books, dolls and small world figures. They learn about the local community through visits to the library for story time, trips to the seaside and the local shops.

Children are learning to share the toys and take turns through the simple guidance and good explanations given by the childminder. The children and the childminder share appropriate warm, close, caring relationships. This means that the children are confident and comfortable

in the homely environment and are able to progress at a pace suitable to them. Older children understand not to leave small toys on the floor as this protects the young babies. The childminder shows respect and understanding to the children. She provides them with lots of interesting and exciting activities and praises their achievements. They are aware of the boundaries that the childminder sets. As a result, because they feel secure and are aware of the daily routines, their behaviour is very good.

The childminder works closely with the parents, sharing both written and verbal information about the children in her care and the service that she provides. Written contracts are kept and are reviewed on an annual basis.

Feedback received from parents comments on their satisfaction with the good service and support they and their children receive from the childminder. Comments include, "The childminder is very professional, very kind and caring. She is a wonderful childminder who will always go that extra mile to help any situation."

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children thrive in a child friendly, loving environment. They are happy, relaxed and very settled, consequently, they benefit from being cared for in a well-organised home. Children receive appropriate levels of support from the childminder and good relationships are fostered.

Children enjoy a wide range of stimulating and creative resources that promote their development in all areas. All resources are easily accessible and the childminder responds quickly to the children's interests and requests for particular activities.

Documentation is generally well maintained. Written policies are in place and are available to parents. The accident book lacks details. The childminder protects the children at all times through close supervision and ensures that appropriate steps are in place to prevent unvetted adults from having unsupervised access to children.

Information kept about the children is relevant, stored to maintain confidentiality and promotes their welfare. Regular verbal and written information is shared with parents to ensure continuity of the children's care. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection four recommendations were raised and these related to the transporting of children in the car, safety of the kitchen, fire procedures and the childminder's knowledge of child protection. The recommendations have been addressed. Parents give written permission for the childminder to transport their children in the car. The childminder has since moved and so the issue relating to the safety of the kitchen is no longer applicable. The fire evacuation procedure is written and displayed in the playroom and in the kitchen. The childminder has gained up to date child protection information from the early years department and from the internet. She has a current child protection booklet which highlights what to do if she has

concerns about a child's welfare. She demonstrated verbally that she has a sound knowledge and understanding of child protection issues at the time of inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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:

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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):

- ensure accident book records full details of any injury sustained.

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