



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY334001
Inspection date	13 December 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 satisfactory. 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 May 2006. She lives with her family in a maisonette in Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey near parks, schools, shops, bus and train routes. There are two children in the family both of whom attend primary school. She is currently minding one child, who is below statutory school age, on a part-time basis. Children are cared for on the ground floor of the maisonette. They may sleep in a cot or have nappies changed or use the toilet facilities upstairs with direct supervision. The family has a pet hamster and some goldfish in a tank. The childminder walks to schools to take and collect children. The childminder is a member of the local branch of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are safeguarded in relation to accidents because the childminder has attended relevant training and has a suitable first aid box to hand. Medication is only given if parents provide it and give their written authorisation. Suitable medication records are in place. Children's nappies are changed following a hygienic routine. They learn about good personal hygiene from an early age. They wash hands with the childminder after nappy changes and she talks to them about it. Each child has a clean hand towel to prevent cross-infection. Parents know that children cannot attend if they are unwell to prevent the unnecessary spread of infection.

Children have a drink of fresh water or fruit squash by them at all times. They are encouraged to drink and details of their intake is recorded to share with their parents. Children enjoy snacks of fresh fruit. Their meals are healthy, nutritious and meet parental preferences. They eat side salads of celery and cucumber with obvious pleasure.

Children enjoy walks in the fresh air going to and from school. They visit the park on a regular basis for energetic play. They often use the swings and other fixed play apparatus. Children enjoy energetic movement to music activities at the childminder's home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, secure home environment. They have sufficient space for play and mealtimes. The children have easy access to their toys which are suitable to promote most aspects of learning. They can choose from boxes arranged at a low level. Children are safe in the childminder's home in most respects because she has taken appropriate steps such as covering electrical sockets, securing the under stairs cupboard and using catches on windows to prevent them from opening wide. Children cannot reach cosmetics or cleaning materials in the bathroom and kitchen and safety gates are in place at the top and bottom of the staircase. However, there is nothing to prevent children from entering the kitchen when cooking is taking place, which is a hazard.

A well thought out emergency evacuation plan is in place and the childminder has considered different routes out of the home to keep children safe in different circumstances. Children are safeguarded in relation to child protection issues because the childminder is appropriately informed. She has learned about the signs and symptoms that suggest ill-treatment in her introductory training course and she knows what steps to take if she is concerned for the safety and wellbeing of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children can choose from a good selection of toys that are appropriate for different ages and stages of development. They play happily with resources that make noises such as battery

operated toys and percussion instruments. Children take pleasure in sharing board books with the childminder. They look at the pictures and they are beginning to say new words. Their particular favourite is a 'monster' book which has a furry cover and appeals to their sense of touch. Children respond well to warm encouragement to verbalise. They are assured of smiles and a warm response when they talk to the childminder.

Children enjoy fit-in toys and wooden puzzles and they show an interest in fitting different shaped bricks into a shape sorter. They enjoy the time they spend with the childminder but as yet the childminder has not gained a clear understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and all that it contains. Because of this the children are not provided with a wide enough range of materials and media to handle and explore.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are assured of respect for their individuality because the childminder has a positive attitude towards meeting individual needs. She promotes fairness when children play together. She finds out from parents what children fear, like or dislike and she ensures that dietary needs and parental preferences are met. Children have access to books that reflect diversity from the local library but the toys that they play with do not fully reflect diversity and disability. None of the children currently minded have learning difficulties. However, the childminder would be happy to care for children with a learning difficulty if she can meet their needs well.

Children's behaviour is managed calmly and effectively. The childminder praises the children warmly when they cooperate with her. A good example of this is at nappy change time when the childminder talks to the children throughout and tells them how well behaved and helpful they are. The children respond to the childminder well and they are happy and contented in her care.

Children benefit from continuity of care because the childminder has established a good working relationship with their parents. She ensures that clear information is available to parents concerning her service through her file of policies and procedures. She maintains a diary so that parents know what their children eat and drink. Other useful details in the diary include a description of the activities that children enjoy, how long they sleep and when their nappies are changed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe from non-vetted people because the childminder was checked for suitability at the time of registration. She has established an emergency cover agreement with a neighbouring childminder who is also vetted which contributes to children's safety. The childminder has attended an introductory training course and a first aid course to underpin her work with children. She has a positive attitude towards attendance at further courses to assist her in her professional development.

The childminder organises her home well and consequently children are welcomed into a clean, tidy environment with space to play. She assesses risks to children in her home and takes steps to minimise most of them. All of the necessary documents and records are in place and they are maintained according to regulation. The childminder's certificate of registration is on display for parents. Confidential information is stored with care so that children and their parents are assured of privacy. The setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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:

The quality and standards of the care are satisfactory. 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):

- ensure that children cannot access the kitchen when cooking is taking place
- provide an appropriate range of toys that reflect disability and diversity
- take steps to increase knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework.

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