



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139698
Inspection date	23 January 2007
Inspector	Ceri Ann Mills
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 1996. She lives with her three school age children in a semi detached house in Wallington, Surrey.

The property is situated in a residential area within walking distance of local amenities, such as shops, parks and schools. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with toilet facilities provided on both levels. Minded children sleep in a designated room on the first floor.

A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play. The family has a pet hamster.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time and currently has one child under five years on roll.

The childminder is a qualified primary school teacher.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder applies highly effective procedures and practices which promote children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children play in very clean, light and well maintained surroundings. The childminder acts in their best interest by ensuring effective measures are in place to prevent the spread of infection. Children use toys and nursery equipment which is kept scrupulously clean. They are provided with their own flannels and towels and the practices for personal care such as nappy changing and nose wiping are extremely hygienic.

The childminder maintains efficient records of any accidents or administered medication, and has the necessary skills and resources for the administration of first aid. Written permission has been secured from parents for the childminder to seek medical advice or treatment in the event of an emergency.

Children's healthy growth and development is extremely well promoted. The childminder works closely with parents and obtains comprehensive information which enables her to meet their children's health and welfare needs effectively.

Children are well nourished and receive a healthy and balanced diet which includes lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Their dietary requirements are regularly reviewed with parents to ensure their on going needs are met. Children thoroughly enjoy their food and the childminder ensures that there is always cooled boiled water for the baby to drink. Food provided by parents is stored and prepared correctly. Babies sleep in comfort at times which meet their individual sleep patterns and receive lots of cuddles which supports their emotional wellbeing.

Children benefit from being taken out in the fresh air everyday. They enjoy visiting the school and walking through the park. Older children benefit from the extensive range of outdoor play equipment which encourages them to be active and promotes their physical development. Babies have plenty of opportunities to learn to control their own body and gain physical skills appropriate to their stage of development. They happily explore a wide range of sensory activities and are attracted by the toys to reach out. Children progress from a sitting position to standing with the support of the childminder and low level furniture. The childminder acknowledges their achievements with lots of warm praise which promotes their confidence. From a young age children enjoy a healthy lifestyle because the childminder makes good use of the local sports centre. Children receive the highest level of supervision when they are taken swimming.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious, welcoming and secure home environment. The childminder identifies potential risks and takes the necessary steps to safeguard children. Nursery equipment is effectively used to prevent children from accessing the stairs, and children are closely

supervised when in the lounge. All the necessary fire safety measures are in place, such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket. Emergency arrangements and evacuation routes identified which ensures children's safety on the premises.

Children independently choose play materials which interest them and have immediate access to age appropriate resources as a result of the safe and well organised storage systems. Children are regularly monitored when they are sleeping. The childminder ensures equipment, such as the travel cot mattress, and toys conform to safety standards and that young children do not have access to small items which may present a hazard.

Children's safety is fully assured when being taken out of the home to travel in the car or by foot. The childminder has secured the necessary consent from parents and through good practice young children are beginning to learn about road safety.

Children's wellbeing is safeguarded because the childminder demonstrates that she has a clear understanding of most child protection issues. Although she has not always recorded pre-existing injuries, she knows exactly what action to take should she have concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's care. They benefit from the warm and relaxed environment which helps them to feel settled and secure. The childminder knows them well and is attentive to their needs. For example she instantly recognises when baby is tiring and becoming hungry, and adapts the routine accordingly. Young children enjoy regular reassuring cuddles on the childminder's lap and happily investigate a wide variety of activities and toys that are appropriate to their stage of development.

Children become competent learners because they are well supported through the childminder's high quality interaction. The childminder has a good understanding of child development; is familiar with the Birth to three matters framework and the Foundation Stage Curriculum. As a result children of all ages have stimulating and purposeful play opportunities which support all areas of development.

Babies receive maximum enjoyment from the activities as the childminder consistently offers help and support. She talks to them constantly which helps to develop language skills and sustains their interest. They freely explore their environment through their senses and are beginning to find a voice. They babble and show delight at the many sounds and textures around them and have great fun matching balls into the correct hole and being rewarded with a sound when they are successful.

Babies are sociable and enjoy seeing the childminder's own children, especially when they play their musical instruments. Children's knowledge of the world around them is effectively broadened when they are taken out for walks and to child centred activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder builds with parents. Children receive continuity of care because the childminder takes into account the information given to her by parents. Consequently children's developing needs are met accordingly.

Children's welfare is fully assured because the childminder respects parents' wishes and adopts good practice by securing parental written consent for most aspects of care. However this does not currently include permission to take photographs. The childminder spends time with parents at the start of an arrangement explaining her practices and procedures so they are informed about the service. Information about how children spend their day; the care routines, achievements and activities are shared with parents on a daily basis and in a variety of ways. For example verbally, by text and over the telephone.

Children are treated with kindness and their individual needs are respected and valued. Children are developing an awareness of the wider world through their play. They have access to a range of resources which reflect diversity, such as books, jigsaws and small world figures.

Children begin to learn about right and wrong from an early age because the childminder is fair and consistent in her approach to managing behaviour. Strategies are used which are appropriate for children's age and level of understanding. For example the baby recognises a change in the childminder's tone of voice. Good behaviour is encouraged and children benefit from the frequent warm praise which leads to the growth of confidence and self esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children greatly benefit from the exclusive attention they receive from the childminder who has a professional and conscientious approach to her childminding practice. Children are extremely well cared for in an environment which is comfortable, organised and child centred. They are extremely content because the childminder effectively organises the day ensuring their routines for sleeping, feeding and play are met. Children enjoy exploring in safe and spacious surroundings and have access to stimulating and appealing resources. Effective storage systems allow children to self select play materials which are suitable for children of varying ages.

Children are supervised within sight/hearing of the childminder at all times and are protected from persons who are not vetted.

All records which contribute to children's health, safety and wellbeing are efficiently and confidentially maintained. The registration certificate is prominently displayed and the required paperwork is readily available for inspection. However, the procedure for complaints does not fully reflect regulatory changes. The daily sharing of information between the parents and the childminder ensures both parties are fully aware of the children's progress and their changing needs.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards her on-going development and has secured a place on the next available course to update her first aid knowledge. Through home study she has become familiar with Birth to three matters and is effectively implementing the framework in her daily practice.

As a result, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to fit covers on electric sockets where they were accessible to children; ensure all entries in the medication book are signed by parents; obtain a copy of local child protection procedures; secure parental permission for children to travel in the car and for medical advice or treatment in the event of an emergency.

The childminder has addressed all of the recommendations which ensures children's safety and welfare needs are met.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted which required the provider or Ofsted to take any action 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):

- ensure a record of pre-existing injuries is made
- seek parental permission for taking photographs
- review complaints procedure to reflect regulatory changes.

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