

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111891
Inspection date	27 March 2007
Inspector	Catherine Hill

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?

This childminder has been registered since 1985. She lives with her husband and adult child in a semi-detached property in Cove, Farnborough. Local amenities are within easy walking distance. The ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding seven children under five years and two children over five years on a part-time basis during the week. The childminder regularly helps to run a local childminder drop in-group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children remain healthy as they follow good hygiene practice. The childminder ensures they wipe their hands before and after a healthy snack of fruit. Parents supply their children's food and drinks and children freely access drinks to satisfy their individual needs. Children have good opportunities for exercise and go for daily walks in the fresh air. They move freely and confidently around the indoor minding environment and have access to a range of outdoor

apparatus to further develop their physical skills. They rest and sleep according to their individual needs and the childminder ensures young children remain clean and comfortable. They receive appropriate care if they have accidents as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Accident and medication records are maintained with the majority containing all necessary detail and the childminder has written policies to support her practice in keeping children healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are settled and play happily within the welcoming, child friendly environment of the childminder's home. They are familiar with the position of resources and freely select, for example, toy cars to play with. Children sit at child sized furniture to colour and draw and have good play space for imaginary play with small world resources. Toys are easily accessible to children, well labelled, and rotated to maintain children's interest and stimulation. Children keep safe at the childminder's as she is vigilant to potential hazards and reminds children to take care when moving stools, for example, so as not to bump others. The childminder regularly risk assesses her home to ensure it remains safe for children and has written policies in place to ensure the safe collection of children. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder understands her roles and responsibilities with regard to child protection and is proactive in seeking training to further her knowledge of this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home where they relax and have fun learning through play. They sit together to draw and colour and the childminder uses opportunities as they arise to reinforce children's awareness of shape. She demonstrates how to draw triangles and circles and encourages children to try and do the same. Children respond to the challenge and talk freely about the different coloured crayons they use. They listen attentively to stories and eagerly gather round the childminder to look at the pictures in books as she reads to them. The childminder encourages children to think by asking them questions about the text and develops children's confidence with numbers by encouraging them to count, for example, the numbers on a clock face. Children are at ease with one another and actively explore different play resources, such as the small world garage. The childminder takes children out regularly to develop their knowledge of the local and wider world and so they have opportunities to develop their social skills by mixing with other children. She has attended training on the Birth to three matters framework and the Foundation Stage and demonstrated through discussion a sound understanding of how to develop children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and sociable and respond well to the childminder who treats them all with equal concern. They have good self-esteem as they receive praise and encouragement as they play. They show concern for others and younger children look to older children to help them with play activities. They have good relationships with the childminder who they readily turn to for support and cuddles. The childminder has appropriate policies to ensure the inclusion of all children within her care. She has high expectations with regard to manners and behaviour and is firm, but fair and consistent, with her behaviour management strategies. Children are

polite and behave well in her care. Parents receive excellent, detailed information about the childminder's practice and newsletters keep them informed of current news. Testimonials on file are positive in their praise of the childminder's care. Parents are kept well informed about their child through both daily verbal feedback and also written information in a daily diary.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her practice very well to ensure children have good opportunities to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. Children have very good opportunities to develop all skills through access to a wide range of resources and activities both inside and outside the home. The childminder is committed to maintaining high standards and is proactive in attending training to continually further her knowledge and skills in order to further improve her already very good practice. She maintains an excellent range of detailed information to support her practice which she shares with parents. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has addressed the recommendation made to ensure age appropriate sleep equipment. She has two travel cots available to meet the sleep needs of children attending.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- ensure all medication records are maintained on site containing all necessary detail.

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