



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY332872
Inspection date	16 January 2007
Inspector	Catherine Greenwood
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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged 14, 12 and eight years in Thames Ditton in Surrey. All areas of the premises are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed secure garden available for outside play. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends a toddler group and takes the children to the park and library. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight years and one over eight years. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy healthy home cooked food and are provided with regular drinks throughout the day. Babies have breakfast, lunch and tea from jars provided by parents. Although the childminder has discussed food provision with parents this has not recently been reviewed in relation to the children's changing needs. This means that younger children are not benefiting from a varied diet. The childminder does not currently hold a first aid certificate, however she has read first aid books to ensure that children receive appropriate treatment in the event of accident, and has obtained a place on first aid training within the required timescale. Children are protected from the risk of cross infection because the childminder provides each child their own flannel and towel, and follows good hygiene practice, for example, when changing babies' nappies.

Younger children benefit from daily outings to places such as local gardens and farms where they look at the animals and feed the ducks. They move around freely within the childminder's home and are developing skills in crawling and pulling themselves up by holding onto the furniture. In addition, children develop physical skills through floor play on large mats at toddler groups. Older children enjoy going to parks and playgrounds after school and every day during the school holidays. They learn to climb, slide and swing, using the large equipment in local playgrounds, and enjoy running freely in large open spaces. Children use a range of equipment in the childminder's garden and enjoy playing hopscotch and skipping.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder supervises children closely at all times and ensures that younger children do not have access to any play equipment that is not age appropriate. Younger children do not have access to the upstairs rooms because there is a safety gate fitted to the sitting room doorway. However, older children sometimes play in the bedrooms and not all the windows on the first floor are fitted with restrictors. This puts their safety at risk. The childminder has sufficient safe play equipment and other resources to meet children's individual needs, for example, when minding twins. Children are kept safe in the event of a fire because the childminder has a clear written evacuation procedure in place. She uses appropriate safety seating when travelling in the car, and helps children learn why they have to wear seat belts to keep themselves safe. The childminder uses safe routes when walking on outings and ensures that younger children hold onto the buggy or hold hands. Older children know the rules for their own safety, such as making sure they can see the childminder at all times. Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has a very secure knowledge of the recording and reporting procedures for child protection. All necessary current child protection documentation is available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Younger children actively choose their own resources and enjoy using the play equipment because the childminder changes the toys according to their developmental progress. Children are provided with a good range of experiences, for example, through daily outings to places such as toddler groups, where they take part in singing activities. The childminder enjoys being with the children and observing the progress they make. She has a written time table which enables children to have a structure and a routine. This means that older children know what they are going to be doing everyday, make good use of their time and are well occupied. All children have good opportunities to choose their own resources and activities which means they develop good personal independence. However, the play equipment for younger children is mainly made of plastic and therefore does not enhance the development of their senses. Children benefit from the structure and social opportunities to play spontaneously with others. They have limited use of the television, like to play together and consequently become good friends. Older children enjoy using resources such as Hamma beads and floam. They love colouring activities and board games such as bingo, junior scrabble and leapfrog, which they use every day. Children enjoy creating their own music on an accessible keyboard, and taking part in imaginative shows which they perform to the childminder and their parents at the end of the day. Older children also enjoy playing imaginatively with the farm and the hospital sets. In addition they occasionally use the playstation and the computer.

The childminder has a very good awareness of how children make developmental progress and the dynamics of the relationships that children form with each other. Older children make activities fun for the younger children, for example when they go to the playground they enjoy playing chase. All the children enjoy playing with the Duplo together as a group. The childminder uses her knowledge of the Birth to three matters guidance to provide children with a good range of experiences and dedicates her time to interacting and communicating with the children. She has a very good knowledge of the differences between children such as twins and helps them to make good developmental progress. The childminder has a very affectionate approach towards the children which means they are happy in her care. She lets children take the lead with their play and uses spontaneous opportunities such as playing peek a boo with a blanket. Consequently, young children babble with joy and excitement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well behaved because the childminder dedicates her time to listening to them, valuing their opinions and make them feel important. She consistently praises children and helps them to learn what to do through clear explanation about forthcoming events. This means children feel confident and good about themselves. Children talk to each other, decide what they are going to do and learn how to take turns. Consequently, they are making good progress in their emotional development. Children benefit from the good role model the childminder and her own children provide. They look forward to being with the childminder because she has a very positive approach, and helps children learn to co-operate through devoting her time to them and ensuring they are happy. The childminder has a very good awareness of the

individual needs and differences of children, for example, in relation to the twins she is currently minding. There is a range of accessible resources that enable children to develop a positive view of differences.

Children benefit from the good relationships which the childminder forms with parents and the support she gives to the whole family. This is particularly in relation to the handover times, where information about the children's individual needs is shared. The childminder and parents also contact each other during the day to have a chat. The childminder respects parents' wishes about the care of their children. This means that parents are reassured about their children's welfare and happiness. In addition, parents receive comprehensive written details of the childminder's policies and procedures. The childminder is not currently looking after children who have learning difficulties and / or disability.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is well organised and welcoming to the children who benefit from using all areas of the downstairs rooms within the premises. Younger children and babies have access to the sitting room and the dining room which have rugs and cushions so they can play comfortably on the floor. The childminder makes toys easily accessible to younger children who are not fully mobile. Older children use the conservatory to do their homework and creative activities. This means their play is not disrupted and they can use age appropriate play equipment and resources without any risk to the safety of the younger children. Most necessary record keeping systems are in place and policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

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. 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 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 food provision is regularly reviewed with parents in relation to children's dietary needs
- fit window restrictors to first floor rooms that are used for childminding purposes
- devise a system to record complaints

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