



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111072
Inspection date	13 September 2005
Inspector	Carol Patricia Willett

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 1989. She lives with her husband and three teenage children in a house in a quiet residential area in Yateley. Local amenities including parks, schools and shops are within walking distance. Children play on the ground floor having access to the playroom, hallway and kitchen. They go upstairs only to sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years, of whom three can be under five years. At present, the childminder has five children in her care whose ages range from six months to three years old. The childminder has

experience of caring for children with special needs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She holds a current First Aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a well maintained home where highly effective hygiene routines and procedures ensure the areas where they play and sleep are comfortable, clean and safe. They develop a good understanding of personal hygiene as they are encouraged to get tissues for their noses and wash their hands after the toilet and before eating. The childminder ensures parents wishes are respected as she uses the children's own nappy wipes and cream.

Good hygiene procedures protect children from cross-infection and appropriate procedures are followed if a child becomes unwell. Children learn about healthy living. They take part in daily activities such as garden play and trips to the local play parks where they use a range of equipment. They climb and slide, use ride on toys and kick and throw balls. They develop manipulative skills through the use of a wide range of play materials and tools such as construction toys, jigsaws, paint brushes and pencils for drawing.

Children enjoy a varied selection of healthy meals and snacks which are well prepared. Meal times are social occasions where children enjoy discussing their families and experiences. The childminder stores and prepares food provided by parents appropriately, she encourages the children to help with the preparations. They make their names with bread dough which they take home to eat. She ensures children's individual dietary needs are met through discussion with parents. Children are given regular drinks throughout the day to maintain good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play freely as the childminder has organised her home and garden well. The children can explore and develop safely with ample space to meet their needs. They develop independence as they select from the suitable and sufficient range of age appropriate toys. These are kept in boxes within easy reach in the hallway and playroom. The childminder has a sound knowledge of hazards and checks the home and garden before children arrive to ensure their safety, taking good measures to minimise risks. For example there is a barrier at the stairs and babies are strapped securely into the highchair.

Children stay safe as the childminder carefully supervises them throughout the day and babies are monitored whilst they sleep. Children learn about keeping themselves safe as the childminder talks about road safety and house rules for example she

explains children should not play with the door as it might trap their fingers.

The childminder has most documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. She has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures and records accident and incident details appropriately. She has not ensured all persons in the home have been vetted to make sure children are fully protected. There is appropriate insurance cover in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy, content and very confident as they form very close relationships with the childminder, she is very gentle, caring and responsive to the children's requests. The children play well together, developing good language and communication skills. They make good progress in all areas as the childminder spends time talking and playing with them and helping them to learn. She informally plans an interesting range of suitably challenging activities daily, such as making paper plate chickens and feet painting, which absorb and maintain the children's interest and concentration. They are gently encouraged to join in. Children's social skills and relationships with others develop well as the childminder takes children to toddler groups and activities outside the home enabling them to meet other children and adults and become aware of the wider world.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well and learn simple rules which enables them to develop good social skills. The childminder has very good behaviour management strategies in place. She treats the children with respect and as a good role model using 'please' and 'thank you' and talks to them in a gentle, caring manner, giving them clear explanations to help them learn right from wrong. She praises them and encourages sharing and good manners. This ensures children are well behaved and care about each other.

The childminder has excellent relationships with parents which helps the children be secure and ensures their needs are well met. She discusses useful information with the parents at the initial visit and when the children are collected. Her knowledge and experience ensures she works closely with parents to follow their home routines and to meet the children's individual needs. Children are happy, secure and settled as the childminder is warm and caring. She is aware of and values children's needs and personalities. She gives the children hugs and cuddles and they enjoy sitting on her lap for stories, this develops their sense of well being and security.

The childminder responds positively and sensitively to support the children's individual needs. She works closely with parents and professionals to support all children's well being and development. The childminder has some written policies that she shares with parents to make them aware of her practices. She has not made

them aware of the procedure to follow if they have a concern.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children receive good quality care at the childminders as she organises her home, the resources and documentation well to enable children's needs to be effectively met. Children are able to play safely and select resources freely to develop their confidence and independence skills as the childminder effectively and sensitively cares for and supports them. She provides an interesting range of activities and outings to ensure all their development needs are effectively met. The children eat and sleep according to their needs.

The childminder maintains appropriate documentation, although her sons still need to obtain criminal record bureau disclosures. She develops very good relationships with parents as she understands the importance of positive partnerships with them. She keeps a folder with her written policies and procedures which she shares with parents. They share information daily to make sure the children's needs are well known. This ensures she is able to effectively promote the welfare, care and learning of the children in her care. 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 required to make sure toiletries were inaccessible to children and to provide a range of resources to reflect diversity. Children are kept safe as they do not have access to toiletries. They are kept up high in the en-suite bathroom of the bedroom where children sleep in a cot.

The childminder has purchased some resources such as a play bus with a variety of people. She obtains books from the library and provides activities such as craft and food tasting that incorporate other cultures for example the children made bookmarks for Diwali. This enables children to become aware of diversity. Children are taken out regularly to enable them to develop an interest in their environment and other people.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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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):

- make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint
- make sure all persons over the age of sixteen in the house have completed criminal record bureau disclosures to ensure children's safety

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk