

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112764
Inspection date	21 May 2007
Inspector	Amanda May

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 1990. She lives with her husband and grand-daughter who is two years old, in Yateley. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder currently cares for three children and is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, as well as attending local parent/toddler groups. The family own some fish. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about good health through ready access to drinks and nutritious foods which take account of children's known allergies and parental preferences. Children enjoy tasty meals such as roast dinners, fish pie and shepherds pie. The childminder provides a snack of raisins or banana if they go out to the park to keep them energised. Children can access their own

drinks independently allowing them to take responsibility of their own self-care. Children benefit from a good range of physical activities that include use of the garden and visits to local play parks. Children enjoy keeping active as they play on bikes and trikes in the garden and bounce on the trampoline.

The childminder manages accidents and the administration of medication appropriately. She shares records with parents who sign to acknowledge any accidents and give permission for medication to be given. This ensures that children's health is maintained and protected at all times. Children rest and sleep in line with their individual needs and parents' wishes. If children do not sleep during the day the childminder arranges rest time where children can play quietly or look at books together. Children learn about personal hygiene through their daily routines. Children wash their hands before meals and after helping to feed the pet fish and playing in the garden. Children look at books with the childminder about bath-time, and they talk about how they keep themselves clean in the bath, and why they wash between their toes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through the childminder's good procedures. The childminder has a well-planned escape route in place in case of a fire. Children occasionally practise fire drills, however these are not consistently evaluated and timed to ensure children's knowledge and understanding about safety issues within the home, is improved. Safety equipment is in place around the home to protect children from harm. Fire guards and stair gates are used effectively to ensure children can not access any dangers. Through good explanation, children learn how to keep themselves safe on outings and when crossing the road. Children take turns when pressing the button at crossings and watch for the green man before they cross.

Children are protected through the childminder's secure understanding of issues surrounding safeguarding children. The childminder shows confidence in her abilities and a secure knowledge in child protection issues. The childminder has good procedures in place which she would follow if she had concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder has undertaken training workshops in respect of safeguarding children, and plans to update her knowledge through further advanced training. This demonstrates children's safety is a top priority within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a varied range of activities which contribute well to their development inside and outside the home. Children enjoy sticking shapes on their pictures and colouring with crayons and pens. Children show their pictures proudly and explain what they have made. Children's self-esteem and confidence is increased through the childminder hanging their pictures up on the wall. Children enjoy trips out to farms and parks within the area where they have the opportunity to hold baby chicks and feed the animals. This provides them with new and exciting experiences.

Relationships within the setting are secure. Children have the opportunity to self select their resources and play independently as well as with their friends and the childminder. The childminder supports children well, and their independence is encouraged through children having choices about their play, and being challenged effectively to try new things. The childminder has a full understanding of the individual needs of the children in her care, and through the activities on offer, children are challenged effectively. The childminder uses the

Birth to three matters framework to ensure children are developing appropriately for their age. The childminder observes children's abilities well and shares these with parents. As a result the childminder can support children individually in overcoming their struggles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents and children's individual needs are met. The childminder shares information with parents effectively, and parents are kept informed about her service and their child's day through feedback at the end of each session. Children benefit from settling in visits before they start, allowing them to feel welcomed and confident in the new environment. Parents are given a copy of the childminder's policies and procedures for their reference. As the childminder provides children with meals, parents are requested to give full details of the foods they would like their children not to be given, as well as ones they would like regularly included in their meals. This gives parents the opportunity to have choice in what their child eats and drinks whilst in the childminder's care.

Children develop an awareness of social diversity as they play with resources and look at books which include people from different cultures and communities. Children enjoy tasting foods from around the world, such as curries and pasta dishes. They talk with the childminder about where different foods come from, whilst developing their own tastes. Children begin to gain an understanding of different people's beliefs through celebrating festivals such as Chinese New Year. The childminder is aware that some children develop special needs and knows to support these by sharing information with parents and providing suitable activities. A policy is in place which reflects the childminder's belief that all children should be supported and challenged regardless of their abilities or disabilities.

Behaviour at the setting is good. Children generally play well together, and begin to learn social skills such as sharing and taking turns. The childminder uses lots of positive praise and encouragement to stimulate children and get them to try new things and play in new ways. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how to encourage good behaviour from children, and has methods in place to support children of different ages. The childminder works with parents to ensure that behaviour management within the setting is consistent with each child's home-life. As there are many activities on offer to the children, and children can be independent in their play, they are stimulated and so behave well.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her time and ratios effectively. Children enjoy many activities and trips out into the community to toddler groups and visits to other childminder's houses to meet and play with other children. Children socialise well together, and increase their confidence in meeting new friends. The childminder also benefits from these meetings by discussing updates to best practice and having the chance to plan group activities and share concerns with other childminders. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the importance of current training and self development as she continues to access relevant training to update her knowledge and improve her service for parents and the children in her care. As a result, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder has secure procedures that work in practice to promote the children's welfare and development. All documentation is in place and available for parents to look at. The

childminder has permission slips from parents in place to allow children to travel in her car, and to have sun cream applied to ensure children are consistently protected. The childminder shows a secure understanding of the October 2005 amendments to the National Standards, and although she has a complaints policy in place, there is not currently a complaints log book in place which can be easily shared with parents. The childminder ensures that her paperwork is effectively organised to keep them secure and to maintain confidentiality at all times.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection, the provider was recommended to review and update her documentation.

The childminder has now reviewed and updated her documentation which is effectively shared with parents. Parents, as a result, are kept well informed and updated on the childminder's service and the care which she provides to the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- time and evaluate fire drills so children begin to gain an awareness of how to keep themselves safe in an emergency,
- ensure a complaints record is in place for parents to view and provide information to parents to ensure they understand how they can access it.

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