

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY225183
Inspection date	29 June 2007
Inspector	Joanna Scott
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 2002. She lives with her husband and four children aged 13, 10, eight and five in Milford, a village near Godalming in Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding with sleeping facilities provided upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding 12 children under eight and two children over eight, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks or drives to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. She attends toddler groups, and takes children to the library and local park. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children play in a healthy environment because the childminder has regular routines to ensure that the house is clean and ready for the children before they arrive. The children learn why good personal hygiene is important as they talk about germs as they wash their hands

after using tissues, and before eating. There is a clear sick child policy which outlines exclusion periods for some illnesses'. These measures help to protect children from infection. Most medication and health records and permissions are in place, however there is no agreement with parents to seek emergency treatment or advice.

The children have daily opportunities to be out in the fresh air, as they walk to and from school, and play in the garden or visit the park. This is beneficial as they control their bodies as they run around and negotiate wheeled toys, and build their fitness. The childminder ensures that children have time to rest and be active in line with their individual needs. This contributes to their physical well-being.

The children enjoy a healthy diet. The childminder cooks meals which are healthy and nutritionally balanced. The children are beginning to make links between good health and diet, and this is reinforced through activities such as planting mustard seeds and watching them grow.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have room to play. The childminder has taken steps to minimize risks, for example she uses socket covers, and blocks access to the stairs with a gate. The childminder chooses resources which are in good condition, and are suitable for the age and stage of development of the children she is caring for. This ensures that items with small parts are not accessible to younger children. This enables the children to move around freely, and make independent choices about what they play with. The childminder supervises the children very well, she is child focused and spends her time playing and caring for the children. This keeps them safe.

The children are learning how to keep themselves safe. They have daily opportunities to talk about road safety as they walk to and from school, and older children practise fire evacuation which means they are able to follow instruction and leave the premises quickly and safely if necessary.

The childminder has up-to-date first aid training, so is able to provide appropriate care in case of accidents. Her knowledge of child protection has been enhanced through recent training, and she has a clear procedure to follow should she have a concern about a child. This safeguards children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy, and enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder. They approach her freely as they sit together, play and look at books. The childminder finds out about the children's home routines, and implements them into her day. This helps the children to feel settled. Her nurturing manner and use of praise helps children to develop confidence.

The children enjoy a wide range of experiences with the childminder. They play at home with a wide range of toys such as role play, puzzles, art and craft and water play. The childminder is skilled at challenging the children's thinking as they talk about colours, numbers and shapes. For instance counting steps as they walk up them. Younger children's speech and language skills develop well as the childminder encourages vocalisation and repetition of words. She knows the children well, and responds to their gestures. The children make regular trips outside

the home, including to toddler groups. This provides opportunities for them to mix in larger social groups and relate to a wider group of people.

The childminder plans her days to ensure that children enjoy a varied range of activities. She uses the Birth to three matters records to record younger children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children's needs are met because the childminder is committed to finding out about each one, and follows home routines. Children benefit from the strong partnership with parents. Parents are given lots of information, such as a detailed handbook which outlines the service provided. Younger children have a daily diary which includes information about what the children have been doing that day, and their progress. This gives parents a clear record of their children's care and development during their time here.

The children have plenty of choice about what they can do and play with. They are self assured. The childminder praises and encourages them. She acts as a good role model, has realistic expectations, and the children understand her boundaries and house rules. This helps them to feel secure and behave well. All children are encouraged to take account of each other, to share and be kind. This helps to create a caring, family atmosphere.

The children are learning about the wider world. They take part in celebrations of other festivals such as Chinese New Year, and they use a map to see where their holiday locations are. This helps them to develop positive attitudes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home here, because the childminder organises the environment very well. The childminder cares for different children on most days, so she plans her day to ensure that they enjoy a range of appropriate activities and experiences that are suitable. The children have space to move and play freely, and although children cannot self select all resources the childminder selects a wide range from which they can choose. This rotation of toys helps to maintain the interest and enjoyment of the toys. The childminder is very child focused, and organises her time to meet the needs of the children in her care.

The childminder shows a commitment to developing her skills and knowledge through training, which means that she has new play and learning ideas. Required adult to child ratios are maintained at all times, which ensures that children are well supported. The childminder has developed a range of policies and procedures which are well thought out and reflect the service she provides. All documentation is stored appropriately and is well maintained, and this safeguards the children's welfare and care. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the childminder was asked to keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children. There is a suitable record in place and in use.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, 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 parents give permission to seek emergency advice and treatment

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