

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY277187
Inspection date	20 June 2007
Inspector	Gillian Cubitt
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 satisfactory. 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 2004. She lives with her husband and two children under the age of five years in a house in Oxted, Surrey. Childminding takes place in a downstairs play room plus a large hall, family room and one bedroom for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five for four full days each week and two children attend out of school hours. The childminder walks and/or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has one cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. They learn about good personal hygiene through effective everyday routines. Children learn why they need to wash

their hands after visiting the toilet, before eating food and after stroking the cat. Effective hygiene practises adopted by the childminder, including good routines for nappy changing, contributes to keeping children healthy.

Children generally bring their own meals and these are stored appropriately to ensure the food stays fresh. When required, the childminder provides home cooked healthy and nutritional meals for the children. The children learn about healthy eating through their play and other related activities such as cooking and shopping for fruit and other natural foods.

Children's physical wellbeing is supported because rigorous exercise in the garden is a regular feature of the day. They have plenty of space and a good selection of toys and equipment that challenge their physical skills. The childminder also supports children's emotional wellbeing. Warm relationships are evident and children feel comfortable and confident to approach the childminder for hugs and reassurance. If a child becomes ill while in her care, the childminder acts in the best interests of the child. Medication is at times administered to support children's good health, however, at times recording lacks clarity.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder creates a child friendly environment where necessary safety precautions are taken. These include putting gates at the base of the stairs and the children's playroom is cleared of possible hazards. The childminder allows the children the freedom to explore for themselves and take risks while being appropriately supervised. The children learn how to keep themselves safe through effective interaction by the childminder. They chat together about how to sit on chairs safely and to ensure that they put their shoes on before going to play in the garden.

Toys and resources are age appropriate and well maintained so that children can play free from harm. Older children learn that they need to play with some of their toys away from the toddlers thereby showing an understanding of helping others to stay safe. Children learn how to play with toys in a safe way and learn that if they throw them their friends might get hurt.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has an adequate understanding of child protection issues. This safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children quickly settle into the homely environment when they arrive. They confidently make themselves at home, choosing from age appropriate toys and activities, which challenge and stimulate them. The childminder gives the children the opportunity to play independently as well as giving them the support they need. This helps them develop their own independence. Children enthusiastically participate in the wide variety of fun activities provided. For example, they enjoy role play where they learn about their world by pretending to make tea in their play kitchen and showing how they care, cuddling baby dolls and giving them rides in the pushchairs. Children have exciting opportunities to explore the natural world in the extensive outdoor area. They collect leaves and use their creativity by making collages. Children love to look at the variety of books which help them understand that books tell interesting stories such as The Hungry Caterpillar and the tales of Thomas the Tank Engine. Older children's independence and understanding of responsibility is recognised. They learn to be aware of the needs of

younger children by keeping their toys out of reach of little fingers. Also they have a good range of educational toys to support their developing minds. For example, by using the alphabet teaching frame and playing scrabble children learn about simple word construction. They also have the full support of the childminder if they wish to sit quietly to do their homework before working off excess energy with the good facilities provided in the garden.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder works closely with parents to support children and meet their individual needs. She obtains relevant details about children's routines and interests so that she is able to provide consistent care for them. Communication with parents is effective through regular discussions and is supported by daily written reports which informs parents about their children's day which supports the continuity of care. Parents also have access to some helpful policies and procedures although information on safeguarding children is limited which impacts on children's safety.

Children's awareness of the wider world is promoted by outings and by accessing some resources, although these are not extensive and therefore restricts children's appreciation of differences in others. The childminder does not have experience of working with children with educational needs or physical disabilities but shows an awareness of how she would work with parents to support children in the appropriate way.

Children benefit from the praise and encouragement given by the childminder. The children develop an understanding of appropriate behaviour as the childminder explains to them what is right and wrong. She allows the children to express their feelings. The childminder then calmly explains, so that children learn how to deal with different situations, to share and take turns as they play. Children also develop an awareness of manners as the childminder gently reminds them to be courteous and friendly.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is organised and children receive appropriate levels of support and attention to support them in their care and learning. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. By her thoughtful organisation of the play room, children are able to play independently and safely, accessing toys that are appropriate to their ages.

The childminder is conscientious in keeping up to date with new information and training from Early Years and keeps Ofsted informed of changes in her circumstances. The required documentation and consents are in place and are generally well maintained apart from some lack of detail with regard to medication and safeguarding children. Overall, the records, policies and procedures help to support the care of children and comply with the regulations.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspections, the childminder was asked to improve her understanding of child protection issues and to provide children with an appropriate range of activities that promote equality of opportunity. She was also asked to obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical treatment. The childminder now has an adequate understanding of child protection which safeguards children. She also has some resources that promote equality

of opportunity. Toys for boys and girls helps children to relate to each other although there are limited resources that reflect diversity which impacts on their understanding of different cultures. Children's welfare is now supported because the childminder now has a document which parents sign giving permission for medical advice or treatment.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop the medication records to include clearer details of how and when medication was administered
- Update information for parents with regard to safeguarding children
- improve upon resources that promote cultural diversity

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