

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY342466
Inspection date	07 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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her partner and one daughter of pre-school age in a maisonette situated in a quite residential area of Coulsdon, Surrey. The childminder's home is situated within easy access of local amenities, parks and schools. The whole of the ground floor of the maisonette is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and is currently caring for one pre-school child for four days each week and collects and minds three children after school. The childminder is a member of the Childminding Network Association. The family has a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are learning about the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. They wash their hands after stroking the dog, using the toilet, before eating and are becoming increasingly independent in their personal care. Their own flannel hangs on a hook for easy access and children take heed of the bathroom posters showing how they can destroy 'bugs'.

The childminder has a very good understanding of how to implement good hygiene practices in order to prevent the spread of infection, for example using disposable gloves when changing nappies and disposing of soiled nappies in the outside bin. The family's pet dog has regular health checks to ensure it does not pose a risk to children's health and all feeding bowls are removed before children arrive.

The childminder has an effective policy on sick or infectious children, which ensures that they are protected from illness and infection. She also takes note of the information provided by parents regarding allergies and dietary requirements to ensure that children's health and welfare are safeguarded.

Children's physical skills, strength and co-ordination are promoted well through daily access to outdoor play equipment in the garden as well as outings to the local park. Toddlers develop their strength and large muscles because the childminder encourages and supports them as they practise new skills when riding small bikes in the garden.

Children benefit from a wide choice of healthy and nutritious snacks and meals to promote their growth and development. They enjoy fruit sticks for snacks and suck on home made fruit lollies in warm weather to help to keep them cool. The childminder prepares a varied menu for all children, taking into account children's preferences as well as any dietary needs. Children are offered drinks throughout the day to keep them hydrated and refreshed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming and safe environment for children. They feel happy and totally secure in their bright and airy playroom. Children's paintings are displayed as well as attractive pictures which make children feel totally at home. Children's independence skills are fostered as they are able to move freely within their play space, accessing their toys from the easily accessible shelves. Children also benefit by having the use of a garden that is level and secure with a well constructed picket fence surrounding the pond. Children relax and watch fish as well as having fun extending their physical skills using an abundance of good quality safe toys.

Children are cared for in an environment where risks are identified and minimised to ensure that they are kept safe. In particular, children's knowledge of fire safety is increased because the childminder has a clear written fire evacuation procedure. The children practise this regularly so that they can react calmly in the event of a fire. The childminder also gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe when travelling in cars. They know they have to secure themselves in their appropriate seats. Also, when walking on outings, the childminder talks to children about road safety and "stranger danger" to increase their safety awareness. Furthermore, older children's knowledge about safety is reinforced because the childminder prepares health and safety quizzes in a fun way, which children eagerly complete.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The childminder keeps up to date with regular training in this area to ensure children in her care are fully protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home. They have their own play room and spacious garden where they are able to play and explore. Children are achieving well because the childminder is organised and provides a wide range of planned and free play activities both inside and outside the home. Activities are planned each day and written on the white board. She talks to younger children of their planned day and older children enjoy reading what is on offer when they arrive after school. Many activities take place in the garden where children learn about nature as they grow their own sunflowers and feed the fish. Toddlers happily play in the ball tent, rolling and tumbling, throwing and catching balls. Inside, they have fun singing and creating rhythms with musical instruments. Each child has their own project folder where they keep their craft activities. Children learn to socialise with their peers through regular attendance at toddler groups and they enjoy outings to libraries for story times as well as the occasional visit to the children's theatre in Wimbledon.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routine, as discussed with their parents. Relevant information is sought such as the child's likes, dislikes, immunisations and dietary requirements to ensure their individuality is respected. Children gain a good awareness of their local environment through visits to local parks and libraries. They develop positive attitudes to the diversity of the wider world through a selection of resources that promote equal opportunities.

Children benefit from a very positive partnership with parents and carers. Parents receive a good level of information about the childminder and the provision to help them make an informed choice about the care of their child. The entrance to the play room is used well to display daily plans, certificates and information that parents may find useful which relates to their children's care. Parents provide information about their child before they start and continue to share information through discussion, scrap books and, for toddlers, daily diaries; although these lack the relevant detail which aids with children's continuity of care.

Children behave well and are learning to cooperate. They receive praise and attention for example when they help tidy away equipment. This enhances their self esteem and self confidence, and makes them feel valued and supported. They learn about the boundaries and expectations through discussions with the childminder

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Children develop independence and choice as they are given space to play and move around the home and access equipment which is organised on low level shelves to help them reach it easily.

Children's needs are known and supported through the childminder's good recording systems and practical use of her detailed policies and procedures. The required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and up-to-date therefore ensures the smooth operation of her provision.

The childminder is committed to improving her knowledge and practice. Since starting to child mind she has participated in various courses, such as Birth to three matters and safeguarding children which all help to underpin her skills and knowledge which enriches the care that she provides. Children also benefit from the childminder's involvement in the local childminder network which organises various events and meetings for both childminder and children.

The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

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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):

- improve written daily information for parents, providing them with more factual notes to inform them of specific childcare practices

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