

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY343932
Inspection date	05 July 2007
Inspector	Anne Jacqueline Nicholson
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 2006. She lives with her partner and three children, two aged over eight and a toddler, in a residential area close to Stoughton, Westfield and Guildford. The ground floor of the childminder's house is mostly used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She currently cares for five children who attend part-time. The childminder takes and collects children from the local school and nursery. The family have two pet rabbits.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children participate in a good range of outdoor activities throughout the week to promote their development of a healthy body. They walk to and from school each day and when the weather permits enjoy outings to the local play parks or playing in the garden. Both older and younger children benefit from plenty of fresh air and exercise each week when they all go to Stoke Park to play cricket together.

Children receive care in a clean and welcoming family home. Their health is well promoted as the childminder ensures a good level of hygiene throughout her house. Children gain an awareness of good personal hygiene practices, for example, washing hands after messy play, snacks and using the toilet and this helps to stop the spread of germs. Policies and practice ensure children remain protected from catching unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are unwell and stay off for at least a day after sickness. The childminder has a sound understanding of how to administer emergency first aid. All accidents that occur whilst with the childminder are clearly recorded although parents do not always promptly sign against these entries to acknowledge them. To safeguard both the children and the childminder any injuries a child may arrive with require recording and acknowledging with signatures.

Children's dietary requirements are highlighted by parents on the initial detail sheets and the childminder additionally records any likes and dislikes as new ones arise each week. Children enjoy balanced and healthy snacks, which helps them start to develop an understanding of healthy eating. For example, at snack time children enjoy eating washed and chopped strawberries. They sit down to eat these next to each other and chat to each other about what they are eating and doing next. Their drinking cups remain accessible and they can be independently accessed throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment where the childminder makes effective use of the space available to allow children to move around freely between rooms. They are able to access a varied range of play equipment that is in good condition and clean. Children are able to both self-select toys for themselves and ask for favourite resources, which encourages their independence.

Children are safe and secure in the home as potential risks are identified and reduced. The front door has double handles to prevent younger children from exiting unsupervised. There are appropriate fire safety measures in place in the form of smoke alarms and fire blanket. Children are beginning to learn how to keep safe whilst inside and on outings. They receive clear instructions on why they shouldn't climb on chairs or stools and remain strapped in the buggy or walk near the childminder whilst out.

Children's welfare is protected through the childminder's sound understanding of her role and responsibility in child protection. She is aware of the indicators of abuse and the procedures for reporting any concerns. Parents are aware of her responsibility to pass on any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have a lot of fun and they play enthusiastically with a range of toys and resources which promote their learning through play. For example, they are developing their imagination as they have great fun playing and making 'trees' with the play dough. The interaction between the childminder and the children is very warm and affectionate. They develop their communication and social skills whilst playing with each other and talking with the childminder. She asks questions to extend their learning and encourage them to chat.

Children enjoy the activities provided, as they are appropriate for their ages and are fun to do. They show great delight when they initially start to put puzzles together which helps develop

their manipulation skills. They enjoy breaking into song, dancing and singing the 'alphabet song' together, triggered by making an alphabet puzzle. They are gaining independence and self-confidence because the childminder encourages them to make choices and explore their toys.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children display as relaxed and happy with the childminder in her home. Positive relationships develop between them both. The affection and consistent care given by the childminder enables children to develop a sense of belonging and trust. She demonstrates an awareness of their individual needs and uses this knowledge to ensure that their needs are met. Children begin to gain an awareness of the world they live in through the childminder starting to increase her resources. Currently play opportunities and resources promoting other countries, cultures and disabilities are still minimal and she is aware that this is an area to address to help children understand the wider world and community they live in.

Children display good behaviour. They play well together, giving lots of hugs and saying 'Please' and 'Thank you'. There are house rules in place and clear boundaries of what is considered acceptable. Children receive consistent instructions from the childminder whilst she positively reinforces her rules. She ensures that she tells them what is not acceptable, why it is not acceptable and then sticks to this to ensure that she is providing a clear message to them all. She sets a good example and provides plenty of positive praise whilst they participate in daily activities.

Documentation and policies are in place and shared with parents. The children receive the appropriate care as the childminder discusses and records individual care arrangements with parents. Children are happy and content and this is supported through the childminder having good relationships with the parents. Parents state they are very happy with the care their children receive and they are kept informed about the activities they undertake and their general well-being. They receive information advising how they can raise a concern in line with the October 2005 Addendum to the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children display as happy, confident and at home with the childminder as they receive lots of individual attention promoting their emotional well-being. The home is organised to allow children the freedom to explore and move safely. She organises the day to include school and nursery runs and a variety of indoor and outdoor play activities. Children receive continuity of care as their routines and achievements are shared between parents and the childminder.

Documentation is well organised and in most instances fully completed. The childminder keeps the required records that contribute to children's health, safety and well-being and these are shared with parents. Children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder as she develops a good relationship with them. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides for.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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 that all accidents and pre-existing injuries are clearly recorded and promptly signed by both the childminder and the parents.
- increase resources and play opp to learn about the wider world through practical activities and play opportunities

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