

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY244635
Inspection date	02 May 2007
Inspector	Ann Moss
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 10 and seven years in Brockham, Surrey. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and is currently minding five children all of whom attend on a part-time basis

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the local park. The childminder has small caged pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean, well maintained environment with good natural light. They learn about the importance of hygiene practices through the childminder's good routines and gentle reminders such as hand washing before meal-times. However, she does not provide individual

towels for children to use. This means that children are not fully protected from the spread of infection. The childminder has all the required permission in place and also her sick child policy, which she shares with parents. She holds a current first aid certificate, although she has a first aid box, some equipment has exceeded manufacturer's expiry date. As a result, children do not have access to appropriate treatment in case of accidental injury.

Children benefit from a balanced, nutritious diet that includes portions of vegetables and fruit. The childminder asks what the children would like to eat, so that they enjoy their meals. They have free access to refreshments, so they can help themselves, which means they do not become thirsty.

Children have daily opportunity for fresh air and exercise. They develop a healthy lifestyle as they walk to and from school and occasionally visit the park or playing fields. They have regular opportunities to play in the garden where they can use large equipment such as a swing set to build on existing skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe, secure and welcoming environment. Their safety is well promoted because the childminder is vigilant about potential hazards in and around the home and ensures risks to children are minimised. As a result, children move freely and safely in and out of the home and garden. The childminder implements informal risk-assessments, policies and procedures ensuring priority is given to maintaining a safe environment for children.

Good use is made of space and children have independent access to a range of good quality equipment and play resources. They learn how to keep themselves safe in the sun as they remind themselves and each to wear their hat when playing in the garden. The childminder supports children's developing independence. For example, when out walking, to and from school, older children know that they can walk ahead because the childminder sets safe and realistic limits. She talks about road safety and how to cross the road using the green cross code. This helps children to take some responsibility for their maintaining their own safety.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has attended training on child protection and has a good understanding of the procedures to be followed if she has a concern. She has informed parents of her responsibility to protect children through a clearly written statement and documentation on safeguarding children. This promotes the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well into the childminder's care because she provides good opportunities for them to relax after their school day. They are happy, confident and develop independence as they make choices about how to spend their time. For example, they can choose to play inside or outside. They have access to a wide range of activities, which are of good quality and appropriate to their ages and stages of development, because the childminder plans and rotates toys and resources to maintain their interest and enjoyment. Younger children are enthusiastic and very much involved in their activities. They enjoy talking through their imagined ideas as they role-play with a hospital set. Older children simply enjoy spending time with their peers.

They communicate exceptionally well with the childminder and their peers and recall events that are important to them.

Children freely seek the support of the childminder, who has skills and experiences to understand when children benefit from adult support, and when they need to explore and experiment independently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and at ease in their environment because the childminder strives to ensure that their individual care needs are met. Children develop an understanding of society's diversity and respect for others through their daily outings and because the childminder talks to them about similarities and differences.

The childminder currently has limited experience of caring for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. However, she understands the importance of liaising with parents and other professionals as required to ensure the developing needs of the children are met.

Children behave very well and begin to understand the consequences of unacceptable behaviour. The childminder has good strategies in place for managing behaviour, which are appropriate for the ages and developmental stage of the children who attend. The childminder's own children act as good role models.

Children benefit from the positive relationship developed between the parents and childminder. The childminder communicates with parents on a daily basis. They share information about the children's day and regularly review arrangements to ensure that any issues are addressed immediately and effectively. This contributes to the continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Space within the home is well organised, which results in children feeling at ease, comfortable and confident in their environment. This enables children to play and learn developing new and consolidating previous learning. The good organisation of time provides children with the opportunity to experience activities in an appropriate setting, whilst considering the needs of others.

All required documentation, policies and procedures as required by Ofsted are in place, are accurate and up to date. The childminder keeps abreast of changes through both the National Childminding Association and her role as a nursery practitioner. All information is shared with parents, at the initial visit and through daily exchanges of information. This ensures that parents are kept fully informed about her daily practice and promotes children's continuity of care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to undertake a risk assessment of the premises and ensure that an emergency evacuation procedure was in place. She was also asked to ensure children had an appropriate range of toys, activities and resources that promote equality of

opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, and inform Ofsted of all significant events. The childminder completes a daily visual risk assessment inside and outside her home. A written evacuation plan is now in place, which she shares with parents and children ensuring children's safety is well promoted. The childminder plans a range of activities to ensure all children have equal opportunity to the full range of activities on offer. There had been no changes but the childminder is aware of the need to notify Ofsted of all significant changes and events within the required timescale.

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 good hygiene practice at all times with regard to hand drying
- provide a first aid box the contents of which are checked frequently and replaced as necessary

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