

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120860
Inspection date	12 June 2007
Inspector	Fran Fielder
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 1993. She lives with her husband and their children aged 12, 11, nine, eight and four. They live in a house in Thursley.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family lives close to local shops, parks and schools. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding four children all on part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is clean and comfortable. Good daily routines and explanation help children understand the need to wash their hands after visiting the lavatory. Appropriate arrangements for children who are sick prevent the spread of contagious illnesses.

The childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating for young children. They receive nutritious snacks such as fresh and dried fruits and enjoy various sandwiches such as ham or marmite. This develops healthy eating habits from an early age. Children can ask for a drink whenever they need one. The childminder encourages children to drink plenty especially in warm weather to prevent dehydration.

The extensive grounds allow children to enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise to keep them healthy. They play on swings and climbing frame, bounce on the trampoline, climb rope ladders and enjoy sitting on a branch of the 'bouncy tree'. Outings include visits to the park, walks in the woods with the dog and soft play areas. This means children enjoy plenty of opportunities to develop physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious, well-organised and welcoming environment. This allows them to move around safely. Displays of children's artwork show how the childminder values their achievements. Children have easy and safe access to a wide range of toys and resources. These are in good condition, stimulating and age appropriate.

The childminder supervises children well both indoors and in the garden. Good supervision when bouncing on the trampoline keeps children safe and allows them to enjoy their play. The childminder regularly checks all large play equipment to ensure it is safe for children. She is vigilant when on outings and procedures keep children safe at all times.

The childminder has clear procedures that support the welfare of the children. She holds a current first aid certificate and has a good understanding of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and relaxed. They play very confidently in the childminder's home. They enjoy wonderfully relaxed relationships with the childminder and with each other. They play exceptionally well together showing a sense of purpose as they organise games and make plans. Children's independence is growing as they have the freedom to make their own choices and decisions. After picking flowers in the garden, for example, children decide which vase to use. Extremely good questioning by the childminder encourages children to think about the size of vase. This allows children to decide whether to use a larger vase or to trim the stalks.

Children enjoy a very stimulating range of activities that are fun, age appropriate and support children's development. For example, they enjoy painting, play dough, listening and dancing to music, making dens, dressing up, puzzles, cooking and looking at books. They collect natural items such as leaves and cones and create collages. They spend time looking at and identifying bugs in the garden. The extensive grounds allow children to explore. Excellent interaction ensures children's language develops well as the childminder explains that if something is seen through it is transparent.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality of opportunity and has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children are treated with respect and are made to feel good about themselves. All children have access to a good range of resources that promote equality and reflect positive images of diversity.

Children behave very well and enjoy each other's company. They learn important social skills such as sharing. They benefit from praise and encouragement and from some basic ground rules which revolve mainly around safety. Appropriate strategies, according to the age and stage of development, help children understand right from wrong.

The childminder builds friendly but professional relationships with parents. She gathers all relevant information, including routines, before children are placed in her care. This means individual needs can be met from the outset. The childminder shares relevant information with parents but is unsure of the timescales for replying to complaints made in writing. If a child spends the whole day with the childminder, she records details to share with parents. This ensures consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from playing in a comfortable home where space and resources are organised effectively to meet the needs of the children. They receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The childminder has many years experience of caring for children of all ages. She has a relaxed manner and a good understanding of child development.

The childminder organises her time and space well. Her flexible approach allows children the opportunity to organise and pursue their own games. All required documentation is in place, appropriately maintained and secure to ensure confidentiality. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, four recommendations were made regarding required documentation and the need to review this. All required documentation is in place. This includes prior written consent to seek medical treatment in the event of an emergency, prior consent to give medication and contracts with parents that outline the expectations of both parties. All aspects of record keeping have been reviewed to ensure the effective management of her service. This promotes children's welfare and ensures all relevant information is shared with parents.

The childminder was also asked to complete an appropriate first aid course. She has a valid certificate and is aware of the importance of maintaining this so she is able to act in the child's best interest in the event of an accident.

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):

- develop knowledge of the requirements regarding complaints made by parents

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