

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160448
Inspection date	13 June 2007
Inspector	Annie Williams
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 1995. She lives with her two children in Woking, Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and 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 five children under eight years at different times throughout the week. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a cat and a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean environment where they learn about good hygiene procedures. Effective procedures for nappy changing sustain good levels of hygiene because the childminder wears disposable gloves, wipes the changing area with anti-bacterial spray and disposes of nappies promptly. Accident records are clear and compliant giving parents the necessary

information to continue the care of their children at home. However, although the childminder obtains prior written permission to administer medication with dosage details she does not ensure that parents sign the record to acknowledge that the medication has been given. Up-to-date first aid training means that the childminder is able to treat children appropriately in the event of an accident. However, parent's written permission is not in place to enable the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for all the children. As a result, in a medical emergency the childminder cannot be sure she is acting in the best interest of children according to parents wishes.

Children are protected from the effects of the hot sun because the childminder applies sun cream with parental permission and all children wear a hat. In addition children are provided with plenty of drinks to keep their bodies hydrated. All children bring their own food for meal times which the childminder stores appropriately. She encourages children to enjoy a healthy diet by providing different types of fruit that they really enjoy such as banana and strawberries.

Children love outdoor play in the garden; they run and play, ride on wheeled toys and climb on the garden equipment. However, not all the garden equipment is yet cleaned ready for the children. Children are developing a positive attitude towards physical exercise because they are regularly taken on walks and visits to the local park. This helps children develop their large muscle skills and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The environment is welcoming to parents and children. There is a range of toys and resources that cover a range of ages and stages of development. Fire drills are carried out periodically and fire detection equipment is accessible and maintained appropriately to contribute to children's safety. An informal risk assessment means that the childminder is able to identify and reduce risks to children, for example, broken outdoor toys and dangerous substances are made inaccessible. Procedures for the arrival and collection of children mean that children are only collected by authorised adults.

Babies are kept safe because the childminder has ensured she has up-to-date knowledge and understanding of the recommendations for sleeping babies. A written child protection policy is in place and shared with parents and the childminder has an excellent understanding of safeguarding children's welfare.

On outings children are protected because the childminder ensures that she applies clear and sensible procedures such as strapping children in her car, carrying a first aid kit in the car and parent's permission for outings and transporting children in a vehicle. Additionally the childminder has excellent procedures for promoting safety on outings and in possible emergencies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the care of the childminder who interacts well with the children; she talks and listens to them and asks them questions to make them think. For example, children explore what will happen if they add yellow food colouring to already blue water and see it change to green. Books are very popular. Together the children and the childminder snuggle

up and share books, sometimes using the attractive puppets that the childminder has obtained to further enhance children's enjoyment and love of books.

Children clearly love playing in the garden; together they help to take care of the plants by watering them with the small watering cans. They enjoy exploring the effects of the water and how it travels through the sieve.

Recently the childminder has introduced observations to enable her to identify children's next steps in learning and plan activities. Some activities enjoyed by children involve pre-drawn templates which do not enable children to represent their unique perception of their world. Nevertheless children engage in a range of suitable activities that allow them to explore and investigate with their senses through play with corn flour and jelly. In addition children engage in model making with bricks as well as junk modelling.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Parents are very well informed of the childminder's service and are provided with a range of policies. Cards and letters express parent's satisfaction with the service that the childminder provides. Additionally parents are informed verbally of their children's care and welfare. Parents of babies receive written details about their child's care. Contracts detail business arrangements so that the appropriate service is provided.

Children are happy, secure and settled in the care of the childminder. They respond positively to the childminder's praise and encouragement and are well behaved; children are able to explain why they have received a sticker for their positive behaviour. Children find out about the local and wider world through visits out in the community such as the park, the farm, woodland walks and local toddler group. Children's personal cultures are successfully acknowledged by the childminder who finds out about children from their parents such as their dietary requirements and medical history. Resources further support children's learning of the diversity of our society and the childminder encourages them to have positive attitudes towards each other through acting as a positive role model and encouraging children to share and take turns.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder shows that all adults living in her home have undergone checks to establish their suitability. In addition the childminder has ensured that she keeps up to date with relevant changes in the childcare field and has recently completed a NVQ three in childcare and education. The attendance register is maintained confirming that the childminder complies with the conditions of registration and the certificate of registration is prominently displayed to keep parents informed of her conditions.

All the required Documentation for the safe and efficient management of the setting is maintained correctly and stored confidentially for the welfare and care of children. The daily routine is balanced to meet the needs of children. Consequently, children are secure in the childminder's care. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection two recommendations were made. These were to ensure good hygiene practices are in place regarding hand washing and to make sure accurate records are kept regarding children's daily attendance. As a result, the childminder has introduced effective hygiene practices and ensured that an accurate attendance register is in place. Consequently, outcomes for children are positive.

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 parents sign to acknowledge that medication has been given
- obtain written permission from all parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- continue to develop the use of observations to identify children's interests and their next steps in learning.

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