

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120481
Inspection date	11 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 has been a registered childminder since 1999. She lives with her husband and three children aged eight, five and three years. They live in a house in Stoughton, north Guildford.

Minded children have access to most of the ground floor, with toilet and sleeping facilities provided in this area. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family lives close to local shops, parks and schools.

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

The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and for those who speak English as an additional language. She has a Diploma in Extending Childminding Practice. She has completed a National Childminding Association quality assurance scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and relaxed environment. The childminder encourages good hygiene by ensuring children wash their hands after visiting the lavatory. Effective daily routines and the childminder's own good practice prevent cross infection.

Children enjoy healthy snacks such as fresh and dried fruits, bread sticks and rice cakes. Lunches include various sandwiches, jacket potato or scrambled eggs on toast. This ensures children develop healthy eating habits from a young age. Water is always available and beakers are kept topped up especially in warm weather. This prevents children from becoming dehydrated. The childminder keeps a food diary and is careful to adhere to any dietary requirements.

Children enjoy regular physical activities that help keep them in good health. Outings to the park ensure plenty of fresh air while playing on slides and climbing frames. Visits to soft play centres allow young children to develop physical skills in a safe environment. They enjoy dancing at toddler clubs and regularly play in the garden on wheeled toys.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a welcoming environment that allows them to move around safely. The dedicated playroom houses a range of good quality toys. These are stimulating and suitable for children's age and stage of development. Resources are safe and easy to access. Regular checks ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child. Children sleep in a separate room downstairs making it easy to monitor them.

The premises are secure and children cannot leave without an adult. Children benefit from well-supervised outdoor play. The childminder uses restraints and wrist straps when out with the children. These clear procedures for outings ensure children's safety at all times.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care. This safeguards and promotes children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play happily and confidently in the childminder's home. They enjoy very warm and positive relationships with the childminder. Praise and encouragement builds self-esteem and gives children the confidence to tackle new challenges. Children show independence as they freely choose from a selection of good quality toys. Mixed children get on well together. Visits to toddler clubs give children the opportunity to mix with other children. This helps them develop important social skills such as sharing.

Children enjoy a good range of activities that are fun, age appropriate and support development. They enjoy painting, play dough, cooking and gardening. They also enjoy musical toys that are bright and colourful. These stimulate children's senses. Counting during every day routines supports children's mathematical development. Good interaction with the childminder ensures

children's language develops well. Children also enjoy Easter egg hunts, visits to see Santa and outings to Heathrow airport.

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 sufficient range of resources that promote equality and reflect positive images of diversity. The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and has a good understanding of how to support them. She has a little knowledge of how to support children who speak English as an additional language.

Children behave well. They benefit from praise, encouragement and some basic rules that are consistently applied by the childminder. Appropriate strategies, according to the age and stage of development, help children understand right from wrong. The childminder works with parents to devise strategies to support children. This ensures a consistent approach.

Childminder gathers all relevant information before children are placed in her care ensuring they can be cared for appropriately. She uses a diary sheet to record what children do during the day. This together with daily discussion with parents ensures continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play in a well-organised environment where they receive good support to make them feel secure and confident. The childminder keeps up to date with current good practice by attending relevant courses such as 'Fun with nutrition'. This ensures she builds her knowledge of childcare so she can support individual children.

All required paperwork is in place and well maintained. Written policies and procedures guide the childminder in her daily practice. This ensures children's needs are met and all relevant information is shared with parents. A good two-way flow of information ensures continuity of care. The information kept about children is relevant and helps promote their welfare. 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 put in place procedures to prevent young children from accessing the steps leading to the raised garden. The childminder has put the play house in front of the steps so children cannot access the upper area. She supervises the children at all times when playing in the garden. This ensures children's safety when playing outdoors.

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):

- further develop knowledge of how to support children who speak English as an additional language

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