



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY300537
Inspection date	27 April 2005
Inspector	Carol Newman

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in January 2005. She lives with her partner and three pre-school and school aged children in a house in Walton-on-Thames in Surrey. The whole ground floor is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding one child on a full time basis.

The childminder lives within walking distance of local schools, the library and local

parks. She attends the local parent and toddler groups.

The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a hygienic environment. The childminder follows good hygiene procedures and changes each baby on individual muslin nappies. Babies enjoy food, provided by parents, which is stored and reheated appropriately. Older children enjoy healthy snacks such as fruit and cheese. Children have regular drinks in suitable containers.

Children wash their hands when necessary. Children play happily in the garden and the childminder is aware of hygiene issues with regard to crawling babies outdoors and indoors.

The first aid box is appropriately stocked and the childminder has a valid first aid certificate. Children are protected from infections as the childminder ensures that sick children do not attend.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe environment where steps have been taken to minimise risks. Children sit at the table to eat their meals in a warm and welcoming home that is clean, well ventilated and well maintained.

Children can easily reach a range of good quality toys in storage boxes and toys are rotated to ensure variety. The front door lock is out of young children's reach. However older children could leave the premises unsupervised. Children are interested in what is available and play happily because the childminder is attentive to their needs and aware of any safety issues.

The childminder understands her role in the protection of children and discusses this with parents when they first place a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children approach the childminder for support and they are confident in her care. She is warm and affectionate and she encourages imagination by playing with the children. They enjoy having pretend tea parties together. Toddlers play well with babies because the childminder skilfully involves them in each other's play. Children relate well to the childminder and other minded children.

Toys are rotated to encourage children to choose, although this limits the range of resources available at any one time. Children play with a range of resources to broaden their experiences. They are discouraged from spending too much time on activities such as watching television. Children develop their language skills as the childminder talks and listens to the children. She asks questions and reinforces new words.

Children learn right from wrong through the childminder's careful intervention and clear explanations. She uses encouragement and praise to build the children's self-esteem. Children interact confidently with adults and each other.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel good about themselves because the childminder has an appropriate understanding of equal opportunities and treats children as individuals. All children are given good attention. Children talk about things that are important to them. They play with books and puzzles that promote equality, but have few other resources that reflect positive images of gender and disability. The childminder considers dietary needs that relate to religious or cultural differences.

The childminder discusses the needs of each child with the parents to ensure consistency of care. She adapts activities to meet the abilities of the children and ensures that all children have access to a range of age appropriate toys.

Children are well behaved and settled in the childminder's care. She is consistent and fair in her approach to behaviour management. Children understand how it feels to be treated unkindly. They learn about acceptable behaviour through clear explanations. They respond well when they are rewarded with praise and encouragement.

Children benefit from a two way sharing of information about the childminding service. The childminder gathers all relevant information before children are placed in her care ensuring they can be cared for appropriately. Parents are provided with a daily care sheet that details the children's routines and activities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play safely and freely in a well organised home.

Children learn through active and quiet play as they make good use of the space and resources. They go on outings to local facilities such as parks and soft play areas on most days.

The childminder has all relevant documentation in place and it is well maintained. Parents are provided with written policies and procedures and they are well informed about their children's progress and activities.

The childminder has attended the introduction to childminding practice course. She is keen to develop her knowledge further, particularly in the field of special needs.

The needs of the children are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 children have access to a wide range of toys and activities that promote equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice
- ensure children are unable to leave the premises unaccompanied.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk