

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY234461
Inspection date	14 September 2007
Inspector	Janet Marie Thouless
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 one child aged six years in Banstead, Surrey. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor. There is an enclosed back garden and pets include one cat and one small dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three child under eight on a part time basis.

Children are taken to local parks and places of interest. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy and are well protected, because the childminder follows effective health and hygiene procedures throughout her practice. All children have their health and dietary needs met through well established routines. Children learn the importance of good hygiene

practice, for example, washing hands before and after meals, after toilet routines and when stroking the animals. Therefore, children increase their independence and personal care successfully through the good routines and continuous support from the childminder. The childminder acts in the children's best interest when they are ill and cares for them sensitively until they are collected. The childminder demonstrates good knowledge on how to administer first aid in an emergency to ensure the children's wellbeing.

Children enjoy a healthy balanced diet, which includes a wide selection of freshly prepared meals, such as salmon and pasta dishes. Meal and snack times are sociable with children sitting together happily chatting about their day. The childminder takes into account the wishes of the parents to provide healthy options that appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. Children are able to access their drinks independently, which helps to maintain good health and prevent dehydration.

A range of activities are organised which enable children to develop a healthy lifestyle. For example, each day they walk to and from the local school in the fresh air so children benefit from exercise. They enjoy the garden where they have use of a trampoline and swings and visit the local park where they can run around and use the apparatus to develop their muscle control and co-ordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety and has identified and minimised all risks within her home and garden. Children benefit from a well organised environment. This allows the children to learn, play and move around freely, safely and independently. Children are able to independently select their activities from a vast range of good quality toys and resources on offer.

Children learn about safety routines during outings. For example, the childminder teaches children about the importance of road safety and effective procedures are in place to ensure that children remain safe at all times. The childminder has considered emergency arrangements and has clearly identified a fire evacuation plan. Children's welfare is fully supported as the childminder has agreed procedures with local childminders to offer support in the event of an emergency. The garden area has secure fencing all around and locked side gates; the trampoline has a safety net which ensures children's safety.

Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role in safeguarding children. Effective procedures advise parents of their responsibility and the childminder knows how to record and refer any concerns. This ensures the childminder acts in the best interest to safeguard the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and confident in the childminder's home. They are provided with a broad range of activities, such as craft making, cooking, board games, role play and dance. The childminder fully supports children when they complete home work. She patiently listens and guides them when they read story books of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'The Three Little Pigs' and sensitively helps them pronounce unfamiliar words. The childminder involves children in discussions, asking them open-ended questions about their school day to develop

language and conversation. Children are encouraged to be creative and enjoy creating pictures from current school topics. Routines are relaxed and informal and allow children time to unwind and relax after a busy day at school.

Children form close and warm relationships with the childminder and approach her confidently for cuddles and reassurance. The childminder fully understands each child's individual need and provides appropriate care and support to address these. The childminder's home provides a happy and homely atmosphere where children are regarded as additional members of the family.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and shows respect for the children and their families at all times. She has a positive attitude towards diversity ensuring children understand the importance of individuality. The childminder adapts activities according to individual needs. This means all children feel valued and achieve well.

The childminder has a quiet, but firm approach to behaviour management. She uses appropriate strategies for young children. These include explanations and gentle reminders. Children are offered plenty of praise and encouragement, for example, when they complete homework after school. Children are well mannered and reflect the childminder's own good practice. They say 'please' and 'thank you' without prompting and are very polite. She is enthusiastic and full of praise when children respond positively which promotes children's self esteem and well being.

Regular, effective communication with parents develops strong partnerships with the childminder. Information is shared between them that ensures children's needs are effectively met and that they are treated as an individual, which makes them feel valued. For example, the childminder understands and respects parents' wishes regarding children's care and routines.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy their play in a home that is well organised, has a range of good quality resources and plenty of space inside the house and garden. The childminder has created a welcoming and homely environment. She makes sure that children get enough attention to help them feel secure and confident. They have plenty of opportunities to make their own choices or initiate their own play.

The childminder has the required documentation in place. This is well maintained and securely stored. She knows about confidentiality issues and children's personal information is kept safe in individual files. The childminder has written policies and procedures that support her practice. These include service statements, child protection and health and safety. The childminder has knowledge and understanding of the recent changes to regulations relating to complaints. However, the current complaints procedure does not show how any complaint received will be investigated as required. She has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration, thus promoting the children's welfare and learning. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, one recommendation was made to ensure that hazards to children on the premises are minimised, with regard to hazardous substances in low level kitchen cupboards. Locks have now been fitted to cupboards to ensure children's safety and well being.

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):

- update the complaints procedure in line with current legislation.

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