

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY274269
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Ann Moss
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives with her partner and two children aged seven and nine years in West Molesey, Surrey. The whole 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. The childminder has two children on roll but not present at the time of inspection. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parents and toddler group and takes children to the local library and the park. The family have a pet dog and three cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates through discussion, a satisfactory understanding of how children's health is promoted. She has systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. Although the childminder has attended a

recognised course in first aid, she does not fully ensure children receive appropriate care in the event of a minor accident by keeping up to date with training in first aid. There is no system in place to record details of existing injuries.

She describes how she raises children awareness of personal hygiene, for example, through discussion, role-play and daily routines such as hand washing before eating and after visiting the toilet. However, sometimes she does not reduce the spread of cross infection by ensuring children are provided with individual towels.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of healthy eating. She talks about providing healthy options such as fresh fruit and vegetable so that children learn about eating healthily from a very young age. She understands the need to have drinking water accessible at all time.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of promoting children's physical development. She describes how children would benefit from fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school, play in the garden and visit the local park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how children gain a sense of belonging. She talks about providing space, toys and resources, which are safe, suitable and appropriate to the children's age and stage of development, in an appropriate location. For example, if children need to sleep a quiet, secure area will be provided.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks inside and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. For example, less secure areas such as the kitchen have been made inaccessible through the use of a safety gate. She explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety through discussion. For example, she introduces road safety as part of daily outings and shows children how to cross the road safely using the green cross code.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates a working knowledge of what abuse and neglect means, and is able to recognise possible signs of abuse or neglect. She describes how she would proceed if she had a concern about a child in her care. She explains how she raises parents awareness of her responsibility to protect children through the verbal sharing of the procedures

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

From discussion, the childminder describes how she promotes children's enjoying and achieving. She talks about providing a flexible range of play and learning opportunities, indoors and outdoor, based on children's interests and their age and stage of development. She talks about organising resources in a manner that helps to promote children's free choice and independence. They are sufficient in quality and made easily accessible through low storage boxes. The childminder talks about supporting language for communication through talking to children, reading stories and attending local story time session at the library. She will develop their imagination and creativity through music, role-play, drawing and painting. She talks about how children's social skills will be promoted through visits to toddler groups and the local park.

She talks about how she will listen to and value what children say and do. She demonstrates through discussion, how children will learn about right from wrong by setting clear and consistent boundaries, for example, by sharing and taking turns.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding how to meet children's individual needs. She talks about how she gathers all relevant information from parents and records this on a child record form. She talks about how she makes time get to know the children, for example, through observation and spending time talking and playing with them. She explains how she provides opportunities for children to learn about their local environment and society's diversity, for example, through outings such as to the library, discussion and access to resources. However, toys and resources that reflect positive images of diversity are limited and do not include disability.

Although the childminder has no experience of working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities she explains how she would work in partnership with parents to ensure steps are taken to promote the welfare and development of all children.

The childminder talks about promoting children's good behaviour. She explains how she sets clear and consistent boundaries, for example, by sharing and taking turns. She talks about readily praising and approving wanted behaviour as a means of raising children's self-esteem. The childminder talks about keeping appropriate records so any incident can be recorded and shared with parents.

She talks about encouraging positive relationships with parents, for example, by sharing information about her childcare practice, policies and procedures before she begins caring for a child. She talks about encouraging a partnership approach through daily communication and making children's records available. This contributes towards children's wellbeing and continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is in breach of regulation because she does not display a current certificate of registration. A warning letter has been issued. Although the childminder has ensured that Ofsted are notified of changes to adults living in the households, procedures have not been clearly followed. However, she has ensured that minded children are not left alone with unvetted adults.

The childminder demonstrates a sufficiently organised approach to her childminding role. The vast majority of required documentation is in place and stored appropriately to support confidentiality. Through discussion, she has shown that she has adequate procedures in place, which support children's wellbeing.

Overall, evidence suggests that the provider 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 make parents aware of her responsibilities with regards to child protection. The childminder has through discussion, raised parents awareness of the need to record and report any concerns she may have. This helps to safeguard children's 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 satisfactory. 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 good hygiene practice at all times with regard to hand drying
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- keep a written record of existing injuries when a child arrives
- further develop play materials which reflect positive images from a variety of cultural backgrounds and varying needs
- ensure all persons living in the household over the age of 16 years undergo checks including a criminal records check.

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