

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120395
Inspection date	06 September 2007
Inspector	Catherine Greenwood

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 outstanding. 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 1994. He lives with his wife and one of his adult children in a semi-detached house in a residential area of Jacobswell, near Guildford, Surrey. The local park, shops and schools are close by. The childminder co-minds with his wife. He is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and eight children at any one time when co-minding with his wife. The childminder is currently sharing the care of ten children under eight years, most of whom attend part-time. Children have access to a playroom, living room and kitchen on the ground floor. The first floor bedrooms are used for sleeping purposes only. A fully enclosed secure garden is available for outside play. The family have two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and the Surrey Childminding Network and has undertaken extensive further training such as the National Vocational Qualification level three. He is also an accredited childminder.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children eat well, and are encouraged to eat vegetables and try unfamiliar food, such as blueberries. The childminder eats with the children, and mealtimes are a very relaxed and social occasion. Children are given healthy snacks such as fresh fruit and all food is homemade. Consequently children have an exceptionally well balanced and nutritious diet. Details of children's allergies and individual dietary needs are well known and recorded.

Children are protected from the risk of cross infection because the childminder has very high standards of cleanliness and hygiene. Older children use the toilet independently and remember to wash their hands. In addition, there are disposable towels available for children to use. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, and has a comprehensive understanding of medication and accident recording procedures. In addition, there is a written sick child policy which is shared with parents.

Children enjoy outside play in the childminder's garden because they have lots of space to run around freely, and have access to an exceptional range of resources, such as a trampoline, bouncy castle, slides, swings, climbing frames, wheeled toys, and saws. The childminder provides a range of play equipment that is suitable for younger children and sufficiently challenging for older and more able children. Consequently, children develop excellent gross motor skills and confidence with using the large equipment, for example, as they show how they can do controlled seat drops on the trampoline. In addition, children are taken regularly to local parks and woodland areas where they have the opportunity to use other exciting resources such as roundabouts, tunnels, wooden obstacle courses and climb trees.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their play in a safe secure environment. The childminder is very observant of children's movements around the home, and communicates well with his co-minder to ensure they are supervised at all times. Regular risk assessments, indoors and outdoors, ensure children's safety. Children develop an awareness of their own safety, for example, they know the rules for using the trampoline. The childminder has renewed the safety netting around the trampoline and has fitted extra netting to the base, to ensure younger children do not crawl underneath. In addition, he has made wooden steps with a handrail so that children can access the trampoline independently and safely. Large play equipment is secure and well maintained ensuring it is suitable for children's use.

Children have access to an exceptional range of carefully selected toys and resources appropriate for their age. Soft furnishings in a quiet area provide the opportunity for children to relax and read in comfort. Evacuation procedures are practised with the children so they know what to do in the event of a fire. There are working smoke alarms on each level of the home and a fire blanket in the kitchen. Clear procedures for outings ensure children's safety and help them understand how to keep themselves safe. Although the childminder uses buggies, he does not need to use reins to gain children's co-operation. Consequently, young children know what is expected and learn about their own safety.

Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has a very secure understanding of child protection procedures. He has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows what action to take if he is concerned about a child in his care. Current documentation is available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is very observant of the choices that children make. He has a caring, relaxed and patient approach towards the children and dedicates his time to joining in their play when appropriate. For example, sitting together to read stories, jumping on the trampoline, and helping them to use the slide. Communication with children is excellent. The childminder shows interest in what children say and encourages them to develop their language through asking appropriate questions. In addition, the childminder uses 'sing and sign' CD's in the car that help younger children to communicate. Consequently, very young children are confident in their communication with others.

Children learn to count as they make their own board games and other resources, for example, for the pretend post office and ticket office. They learn about energy transferral as they make working rockets from tubes and lemonade bottles which they use in the garden. This encourages children to be inventive with everyday things. Children regularly paint and use collage materials which are easily accessible. The childminder provides daily opportunities for children to take part in group games and listen to stories. Consequently children learn to work well as a group, take turns, share, and recognise and learn about number and colour.

Children go on regular outings to nature parks where they look at the wildlife such as dragonflies and ducks. The childminder helps them to learn about the seasons by noticing things in their environment. They go for walks in the woods in the long grass, catch grass hoppers, and lift up logs to look at insects. Consequently, children develop an understanding of the world around them. During the summer holidays children are taken on outings to the seaside, museums in London, Heathrow airport, farms, amusement parks, nature trails, and for walks in the woods where they build camps and have picnics. Older children are taught how to ride bikes and go for rides along the river.

Children are provided with a wide range of experiences. Photographs show evidence of them climbing trees, holding the childminder's kitten, dancing together, playing imaginatively, having a hug with the childminder on the sofa, using a play tent, using an obstacle course in the woods, and playing in the paddling pool. Images on the computer show children laughing with excitement as they play musical instruments such as saxophones and trumpets. Children love being filmed and make faces and whisper at the camera.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are exceptionally happy and settled. This is because the childminder and his co-minder are extremely attentive to the children's individual needs and provide a calm and nurturing environment. Children are given lots of emotional support, and as a result, develop good self confidence, independence, and feel good about themselves. The childminder provides a very positive male role model for children. Consequently, children are very relaxed and at ease in his company and often go to him for a cuddle. Children see the childminder taking an equal role in everyday tasks such as nappy changing and clearing up after mealtimes. This helps them

to have a positive view of gender and roles within the home. In addition, there are plenty of resources that reflect positive images. This means children learn to acknowledge and accept differences.

Children are extremely well behaved and benefit from the structure and routine which the childminder provides. He works closely with parents to identify clear simple goals to help children co-operate, uses basic ground rules which are consistently applied and gives children lots of praise and encouragement. The childminder uses appropriate strategies which are adapted according to their age and stage of development to help children understand right from wrong. For example, older children are encouraged to talk to others to resolve conflict and talk about their feelings and how they have made others feel following any incidents. Children know the rules and are encouraged to play together as a group, and support and help each other if they are upset. Consequently children form very good relationships with their peers. The childminder observes any incidents so he knows how to put things right.

The childminder develops a very positive and open relationship with parents. Consequently children are provided with emotional stability because they see adults getting on well together, and are cared for in a similar way. The childminder works closely with parents to find out about the opportunities they want for their child and their views about childcare. Photographs of children's play are regularly e-mailed to parents. This keeps them well informed about children's activities and what they have been doing. Parent feedback forms and letters of recommendation include exceptionally positive comments.

The childminder is not currently caring for children with learning difficulties and/ or disability. However, he has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and severe disability last year. He works closely with parents and a wide range of other agencies to meet children's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by the exceptional organisation. The environment is extremely well organised and children help themselves to a wealth of resources that are easily accessible in the garden, play room and a playhouse in the garden. Good use is made of the garden all year round, for example, there is a large covered wooden sand pit which children can sit in, and a water tray. This means that children are extremely confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

The childminder and his co-minder work exceptionally well as a team. They have the same approach towards the care of the children and develop plans and strategies for meeting children's individual needs, for example, when children have behaviour difficulties. This means that children are provided with continuity of care. All policies and procedures are individual to the childminder and fully support his very good childcare practice. Record keeping systems include all necessary details. These are significantly enhanced by the detailed and attractively presented records of children's achievements, and a portfolio which includes photographs of activities and children's play. New written procedures for overnight care have recently been developed.

The childminder is fully committed to continuous improvement through attending an exceptional range of additional training and by identifying plans for future improvement. For example, he has started to build a sensory garden, and raised beds for planting and growing. In addition, the childminder is part of an accredited quality assurance scheme. This means that children

benefit from the additional knowledge and resources he consistently provides to meet their individual needs. If the childminder has vacancies for children in relation to his registration, he provides part time places funded by Social Services. In addition he transports some of the children to and from their homes. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to devise a written risk assessment to cover all areas of childminding practice. He has completed a comprehensive assessment which is reviewed and updated every six months, to include additional outside play resources as they are provided. This means that children's safety has been improved.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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