

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	158872
Inspection date	25 July 2007
Inspector	June Fielden
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged 15 and 17 in Thornton Heath, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder works with an assistant and her husband, who is also a registered childminder. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children and is currently minding two children under five full-time. When working with her husband or her assistant, together they may care for a maximum of seven children. Currently they are caring for six children between them. Both childminders have joint responsibility for the childminding practice. The childminder walks to local parks and shops with the children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy home. If they have a contagious illness they are excluded, in order to prevent the spread of infection. Parents are called to collect their children

if they become sick while in the childminder's care. The childminder obtains written permission for any emergency medical treatment of children. She holds a current first aid certificate to protect children's welfare. She has effective hygiene routines in place, which include ensuring that children have clean hands before they eat, and that they wash them after using the toilet or the potty.

The childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating, and provides a well balanced diet for children. She offers them a variety of food, including fresh fruit and vegetables that are in season. Children are offered hot food at lunch time and sandwiches and yoghurt at tea time, as they have a cooked meal when they get home. They are regularly given drinks to ensure they are not thirsty.

Young children are given the opportunity to rest quietly each day, in a travel cot or sofa bed in the playroom. They exercise in the garden, playing on the range of sturdy equipment provided, including see-saws, a slide and a small climbing frame. The childminder takes children for walks to keep them fit, and her co-childminder takes them on visits to the library and soft play areas.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from having their own playroom, where the majority of their toys and equipment are kept. They move around freely, accessing the resources for themselves, as they are stored in large containers or drawer units. There is an extensive range of toys, appropriate to the needs of all children. The childminder ensures that the resources she purchases conform to safety standards, and regularly checks for broken toys, which are discarded.

Children's safety is assured in the event of an emergency, as the childminder has devised an evacuation plan. There are also effective measures in place to maintain children's wellbeing. The childminder carries out risk assessments on an on-going basis, when she tidies up each day. She makes sure that the stair gate is closed, and that socket covers are in place. The childminder keeps children safe on outings by holding their hand, or making sure they are strapped in a buggy. However, there are currently some minor hazards in the garden, such as a container full of water, and the uncovered ends of sticks supporting the plants in flower pots.

The childminder is aware of the signs of abuse to look for. She has the necessary contact numbers available, to enable her to seek advice on child protection issues. She understands the necessity to record what is happening in these circumstances, and to listen carefully to what children tell her.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children happily amuse themselves for reasonably long periods of time in the childminder's garden, playing with the bats and balls, as they feel relaxed and at ease in her presence. They are confident when speaking to adults, as they are given plenty of attention, and are continually engaged in conversation by the childminder. Soothing music is played in the background for children to fall asleep to, and nursery rhymes for them to listen to at other times during the day. Children are also made aware of the words to simple rhymes and songs, as the childminder sings to them while she rocks them up and down on the see-saw. She shares books with children to develop their number recognition and to encourage them to count. She asks them to name the different colours of objects in the books, and of the balls that they play with in the garden.

The childminder uses the magnetic letters on her fridge to assist children in learning the letters in their names, and the sounds which they make. Both the childminder and her co-childminder are fully involved in planning and providing play opportunities for children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern by the childminder, and she makes sure that all participate in the activities. Each child receives some individual attention from the childminder, and she liaises with parents to meet their individual requirements. The childminder is aware of children's need for a dummy or other comforter. However, she does not fully promote children's understanding of diversity, as she lacks the relevant resources. Although the childminder does not have any children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities on roll, she has a suitable understanding of how to adapt her practice to integrate them with the other children.

The childminder and her co-childminder have equal contact with parents, and build appropriate relationships with them. The childminder spends some time with each parent at the end of the day, to make them aware of what their child has been doing. Parents know that they can telephone the childminder at any time. They have been informed of the complaints procedure and how to contact Ofsted. The childminder promotes positive behaviour through the use of praise, and by teaching children to respect each other and not to be selfish. She encourages children to show each other some consideration, and to apologise when they have done something wrong.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is well organised, and as a result children receive quality care. They follow regular routines, which give structure to their day. Her assistant is appropriately supervised, and is aware of children's individual needs. The childminder takes overall responsibility for maintaining the records for herself and her co-childminder, and all necessary documentation is in place. When visitors are present the childminder keeps children where she can see them at all times, to ensure their safety. Her certificate of registration is on display, to inform parents of the conditions under which she operates. The childminder stores her records securely to maintain confidentiality, and makes them available to a child's parents on request. She meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last care inspection recommended that the childminder maintain a record of nappy changes and food intake for children under two years, and that sufficient furniture is available to meet their requirements. She now keeps a record of the food each child eats, and their personal care details, to enable her to provide parents with this information at the end of the day. The childminder has purchased some additional furniture for young children, including high chairs and travel cots, to meet their needs.

It was also recommended that the childminder makes low level glass panels inaccessible to children, and ensures that her assistant completes an appropriate first-aid course. The only glass now accessible to children is safety glass, in order to protect their wellbeing. The assistant mentioned in the previous inspection report has attended a first aid course, to enable her to attend to children's minor injuries.

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):

- ensure the garden is free from hazards
- obtain appropriate resources to promote children's understanding of diversity.

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