

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120706
Inspection date	30 July 2007
Inspector	Deborah Jaqueline Newbury
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 1992. She lives with her husband and adult child in a residential area of Chobham in Surrey. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor where toilet facilities are provided. Two first floor bedrooms are used as sleep areas for minded children and there is an enclosed back garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding a total of seven children, whose ages range from one to eight years. Days and times of children's attendance varies.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA) and the Surrey Childminding Association. She regularly attends a local childminding support group and a toddler group and takes and collects children from local schools and nursery groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children rest as necessary in safety and comfort. The childminder provides travel cots for those children who need them and regularly checks sleeping children, both physically and by means of a listening monitor. Children have good opportunities to be active as they walk to and from school each day. As well as ensuring children benefit from fresh air, this arrangement also encourages conversation and helps children to become aware of their local community. The childminder uses this time to point out different things in the village and to encourage children to observe the changing seasons. Children participate in physical exercise as they regularly visit the park where they can explore the different play apparatus on offer. This offers different levels of challenge and scope for skill progression. They visit soft play centres and take part in sport days organised by the childminder and another minder. Children enjoy outside play in the garden. They ride on the bikes, use the slide and play with sand.

Children play in a clean and well-maintained environment. They stay healthy as the childminder implements effective practice to ensure good standards of hygiene, and to minimise the potential for the spread of infection. For instance, she cleans the table with an anti-bacterial spray before children sit up to eat, provides them with individual flannels to clean their hands and faces after meal times and ensures parents are aware of her sickness policy and exclusion periods for different illnesses. She gives consideration as to how she will deal with possible outbreaks of illness. For example, she devised a policy which she shared with parents when there was talk of a potential flu pandemic. Children display good understanding of the importance of personal hygiene as they wash their hands at appropriate times such as before eating, after playing with sand and after playing in the garden. It is very evident that this forms part of their everyday routine and they talk confidently about germs. The childminder reinforces their awareness through discussion.

Children enjoy a variety of home prepared meals that have regard for good nutrition and promote an awareness of healthy eating. They are offered a choice of items at lunch time and the childminder encourages their developing independence by inviting them to spread the butter on their toast themselves. Salad and fruit is supplied in plentiful quantities and the childminder willingly provides more upon request. Children chat about their favourite foods and comment that the childminder provides these for them; they explain that they have fruit every day. Children have frequent drinks throughout the day, which ensures they do not become dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children remain safe indoors and outside as the childminder takes positive steps to provide a safe and secure environment and to minimise any areas of potential risk. They become familiar with the procedure they should follow in the event of it being necessary to evacuate the premises, as they regularly practise fire drills. Children confidently talk about what they need to do at this time. The childminder monitors this by recording good quality information about how each fire drill has gone.

Children learn how to keep themselves safe with the support and guidance of the childminder and the setting of clear boundaries. For instance, they learn how to stay safe when they are

out walking and practise crossing the road in a safe way. Children pretend to practise crossing the road when they are playing in the garden as the childminder holds up a stop/go sign they have made. Children understand that they cannot go in the kitchen whilst the childminder is cooking as this may place them in potential danger.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder is secure in her understanding of issues relating to child protection. She has recently attended Safeguarding Children training to update her knowledge and keeps relevant information, including contact numbers for Children's Social Care readily to hand, in the event of it being necessary to report any concerns she may have. She ensures parents are informed of her responsibility.

Children use good quality resources, furniture and equipment. Play materials are age appropriate and of a clean condition. The childminder checks items regularly to ensure everything is safe and ready for children to use.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

There is a lovely atmosphere at this childminder's home with lots of laughter. Children play harmoniously and have fun together. They remain well occupied, whether playing outside in the garden where they pretend to make food as part of sand play, playing hide and seek or using the musical instruments. Board games are a popular activity. The childminder plays alongside children and encourages them to count and work out the different moves for themselves. She explains things well so children understand the concept of the game and what they need to do. Children relate well to the childminder. They form friendly and trusting relationships with her because she involves herself in their play and shows genuine interest in what they are doing and what they have to say. Children enjoy looking at a scrapbook full of photographs of themselves and other minded children, the different places they have visited, activities they have taken part in and displays they have helped to create. They excitedly name the different children in the photographs and recall the events depicted.

Children benefit from a broad range of worthwhile activities and experiences inside and outside the home. They do art and crafts, cooking, gardening and visit places of interest such as animal farms and a local farm shop, to look at the different fruits and vegetables for sale. They taste these to decide those they like and those they do not. The childminder plans many of the activities she offers around themes, and takes into account the Birth to three Matters framework of good practice and the different areas of learning, within the Foundation Stage Curriculum. Her current theme has been planned to offer children opportunities to find out about various types of transport, how we get around and to practise road safety. Outings to the canal to see the barges, a bus ride and a visit to a local airport to see small planes up close adds to children's learning in a meaningful and fun way. The childminder sometimes evaluates her plans and what she feels children have gained from the activities offered. Children have opportunities to mix with other children and adults, and develop their social skills as the childminder attends childminding and toddler groups with younger children, and gets together for some activities with another local childminder and the children she cares for.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder establishes good relationships with parents which benefits children and ensures continuity of care. She completes a comprehensive daily diary for each child; these contain lots

of information and enable parents to share in their children's day. Information available at the inspection in the form of written references and cards from parents, are very positive about the care children receive and the range of activities children participate in. The childminder displays her certificate of registration.

Children behave well. They are encouraged in their use of good manners and supported in their understanding of the importance of sharing and turn taking, for example, as they play board games together. Children are helped to feel good about themselves as the childminder praises and encourages them.

Children are treated as individuals and with equal concern. For example, the childminder makes a point of consulting everyone about which board game they want to play and suggests they take a vote. She provides reassurance that everyone will have the opportunity to take part in their requested activity during the course of the day. The childminder's practice of displaying children's artwork within her home adds to children's sense of belonging and helps them understand that their efforts are valued. Children gain awareness of the wider world in which we live through planned activities and discussions. For instance, children have made daffodils for St David's Day, a Chinese Dragon for Chinese New Year and flowers for Shavuot.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure in a relaxed, welcoming environment. They have sufficient space in which to play and they benefit from the effective way the childminder has organised her home and the good levels of support she provides. Children move freely around those areas of the home used for minding and make their own decisions about where they wish to play. Thus, they develop confidence in their surroundings.

Required documentation and other records that promote the health, safety and welfare of children are mostly in place. However, the childminder has not obtained written parental consent from all parents to transport children in a vehicle and parents do not always sign the medication record to acknowledge the entry. Paperwork is stored securely but the childminder's current system for recording accidents does not always have regard for confidentiality. Written policies and procedures cover all aspects of the childminder's service and parents are provided with their own copy of these for easy reference. Whilst the childminder does provide parents with the contact number for Ofsted should they have any concerns or complaints they wish to report, the information available to them does not detail how they can expect any complaint they may make to the childminder to be dealt with.

The childminder has a positive attitude to professional development. She regularly takes advantage of different courses and workshops to enhance her existing knowledge and the service she is able to provide the children in her care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children from whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was raised. This required the childminder to improve children's access to a wide range of activities. Improvements have been made in respect of the organisation of play materials stored in the under stairs cupboard which means that children are now able to see more easily what there is to play with.

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):

- improve existing record keeping systems by obtaining written consent to transport children in a vehicle from all parents and ensure greater consistency in getting parents to sign the medication record to acknowledge the entry. Consider ways of improving confidentiality.
- ensure parents are sufficiently informed of the procedure they should take should they wish to make a complaint and the way they can expect this to be dealt with.

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