

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120695
Inspection date	26 July 2007
Inspector	Louise, Caroline Bonney
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 was registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged 18 and 17 years. They live in a bungalow in the village of Tongham on the outskirts of Farnham and Aldershot. The property is close to local schools and amenities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She currently has seven children on roll, three of whom only attend before and after school and during the holidays. Children use the lounge and a bedroom is available for a sleeping area. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside activities.

The childminder attends a local toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have their medical needs met. The childminder discusses the medication she administers to children in advance with parents and they sign general consents. However, these consents do not clearly specify which medication can be administered, and could lead to a misunderstanding. The childminder has up-to-date first aid training and manages accidents appropriately. However, she has not sought parents' consents for the requesting of emergency medical advice and/or treatment. This means parents might not have clear awareness of the procedure she will follow in an emergency. Parents are aware of the sickness procedure and collect unwell children early. This helps prevent the spread of infections.

Children play in premises that are clean, well-ventilated and warm. They use equipment and toys that are well-maintained. Children develop some awareness of hygiene. Toddlers have their hands cleaned on baby wipes after using the toilet and older children independently look after their own personal care. However, the childminder does not encourage children to wash their hands before mealtimes to further develop their understanding of good hygiene.

Babies follow their home routines and have their feeds at regular times. They enjoy a cuddle and eye contact as the childminder gives them their bottle and they settle well for their sleep. This helps them cope with their day. Toddlers develop independence as they feed themselves and older children sit round the table for sociable meals. Children develop likes and dislikes and the childminder encourages them to try new foods, such as yoghurt drinks. However, their diet does not contain many vegetables or fruit to promote healthy eating. Children have regular drinks. This helps ensure they take plenty of fluids.

Children have daily opportunities for exercise and fresh air. They walk to school, visit the park and play in the garden. Each week they attend the local toddler group. This provides them with opportunities to use large apparatus, run, climb and balance, and promotes good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in welcoming premises, where they can easily access their toys and resources independently from low storage units. Children stay safe through the childminder's procedures. Indoors she creates safe areas for the children to play in through the use of safety gates, which restrict their access to the front door and kitchen. Outside sheds and gates are securely locked. Children only independently access toys and resources that are safe and suitable for their ages. Older children access toys with small parts in a separate area away from babies. This ensures babies do not swallow any small parts.

Children show good awareness of how to be safe. They know to wear safety restraints in the car and not to run and shout indoors. They are careful to push buggies around the baby so that they don't bump him. The childminder gives children clear reasons for not doing certain things, such as don't swing toys in case they bump someone, don't run indoors in case you fall and hurt yourself. Children use larger equipment such as wheeled toys or a slide in the garden and fixed apparatus when visiting the park. This provides appropriate challenges and helps children develop awareness of risk and how to play safely.

The childminder has good understanding of how to safeguard children. She knows to record existing injuries and shares her procedure with parents. She attends training workshops to extend her knowledge of the signs to look out for and the correct procedure to follow. This helps protect the children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children very much enjoy the care and attention they receive from the childminder and there is plenty of laughter and good humour in the setting. They play well together and receive sensitive support as they learn to take turns and show care towards each other. Babies busily engage themselves with toys that make sounds and flash lights, or crawl at speed up and down the lounge. Toddlers enjoy pushing wheeled toys as they negotiate space and control their movements. Preschool children develop their role-play together as they dress dolls and take them for walks in the buggies, or draw maps with crayons and paper. School children design and make models using paper, string and selotape, independently fetching scissors to cut extra shapes. Older children work together co-operatively as they build large models with construction kits.

The childminder interacts well with the children at their various levels of understanding and provides good support for their developing communication skills. She models language and has lengthy conversations with the children which they thoroughly enjoy. She supports their role play, pretending to be the teacher when children ask her to as they sit on the floor and cross their legs at snack time. Children access a good range of toys which stimulate their play and which the childminder rotates to maintain their interest. Children play outside in the garden when the weather is fine, accessing resources such as balls, wheeled toys and a slide. They walk to school and have regular outings which provide opportunities for physical exercise, such as going to the park. They socialise with larger groups of children when they meet with other childminders or attend the weekly toddler group sessions. This contributes well to their overall development. However, the childminder does not use the Birth to three matters framework to further develop activities for younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the friendly and business-like relationship the childminder establishes with their parents. She seeks information about the children's care needs and home routines. Parents complete written contracts and child detail forms and sign some of the required consents, such as to take children on outings and transport them by car. They share records such as the accident and medication records. Parents learn about the policies and procedures during introductory visits. They exchange information daily at handover or via the telephone. This ensures children have good continuity of care.

Children become familiar with the wider community as they attend local toddler groups and meet up with other childminders and their children. They use some resources that reflect diversity, such as a good range of books, dolls and play people. The childminder is aware of children's home cultures and talks to them about the countries they come from and children occasionally bring in traditional foods to share.

Children show a strong sense of belonging. They relax and feel at home in the warm and friendly environment. They know the childminder values them as individuals as she talks to them about

things they care about. Children know the routines, such as sitting at the table for meals or quietening down when babies fall asleep after their feed. Children are happy and content in the provision.

Children behave very well. The childminder skilfully supports toddlers as they learn how to behave appropriately, or preschool children as they learn to take account of other children's needs and feelings. She is consistent and fair, which helps the children develop good understanding of appropriate behaviour. Children speak politely, such as when a preschool child says 'excuse me' to another child. They show care as they play carefully around the baby and older children speak kindly to younger children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder normally maintains her ratios carefully. However, on the day of inspection she was providing emergency cover for an extra child without informing Ofsted and was exceeding the numbers of children she is registered to care for. This is in breach of her conditions of registration.

Children have sufficient space for their activities and move about freely as they play. The childminder moves furniture to suit their needs, such as by taking a small table out of the room and pushing the chair back when they are constructing models on the floor. This supports them as they pursue their chosen activities.

Children benefit from the childminder maintaining close links with other childminders. They organise activities together such as the annual trip to a children's farm and discuss good practice. This helps the childminder evaluate her provision. The childminder maintains most documentation well and implements procedures that support the children's safety and welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the provider was recommended to develop documentation, update her knowledge of child protection and provide resources to reflect diversity.

The childminder has improved her documentation. She ensures she has appropriate information about each child in her care. This supports their safety and welfare. The childminder has now attended training workshops for safeguarding children. This has improved her knowledge of the possible signs of abuse and/or neglect and the correct procedures to follow. This means children are appropriately safeguarded. The childminder now has a good selection of books which reflect positive images of diversity. Together with other resources previously in place, such as dolls and play people, children now have increased opportunities to develop awareness of similarities and differences.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 required adult:child ratios are met at all times
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- obtain written permission from parents before administering specified medication to children
- improve daily routines and procedures to help children learn about good personal hygiene.

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