



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 121595
Inspection date 28 July 2005
Inspector Cheryl Walker

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 registered in 1993. She lives with her partner and two school-aged children. The family live in a house near Epsom Downs in Surrey. Children have access to all areas of the ground floor of the home, including a large family room for play. There is a fully enclosed rear garden which is used for outdoor play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is also part of a local childminding network. She supports newly registered childminders in their work.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children under 8-years and

is currently caring for 6 children on a full and part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The home environment is extremely clean, brought about by effective hygiene practices that protect children from illness and risks of cross infection. All children enjoy regular physical outdoor activities, which positively contribute to their good health and encourage them to develop a healthy lifestyle. Children benefit from walking to local facilities, which promotes health and exercise. They have regular access to a safe and secure, extremely well presented garden that encourages their interest and curiosity.

Children thrive due to an excellent balance of a healthy diet, exercise and regular drinks. A varied range of attractively presented meals and snacks encourage children to try new foods and subsequently widen their tastes. A comprehensive menu takes into account all children's individual dietary requirements. Children have opportunities to pick their own fruit and vegetables on local outings and taste these items in the freshly cooked meals provided.

Children quickly learn to become independent in their self-help skills due to high levels of support and consistent routines. They know that they must wash their hands before they eat and after using the toilet and do so without prompting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

An extensive range of stimulating toys and equipment encourage children's interest within an effectively arranged environment. Child sized furniture, easy access to toys and displays of their work enable children to feel welcome and secure in this child friendly home. Children can move freely and safely around the setting enabling their overall independence. The childminder takes extremely effective measures to promote children's safety both inside and outside of the home.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder shows commitment to her work and demonstrates a thorough understanding of her role within child protection. Successful relationships with other agencies help to promote children's overall well being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle well in the childminder's care due to secure routines. They make themselves at home and have a warm and affectionate relationship with the

childminder. She knows the children well and devotes her time to them to enhance their sense of well-being and emotional stability.

Children play purposefully and skilful, imaginative provision of activities encourages them to explore using their senses. Children make good progress in their development as the childminder adapts activities according to their abilities to provide challenge for all children. They quickly become competent communicators because the childminder uses supportive and enthusiastic interaction at all levels that enable children to develop confidence and make progress in their social learning.

Young children have their needs fully met because the childminder has a full understanding of their developmental needs and uses the Birth to three framework to inform her practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children respond positively to the childminder's calm approach and this helps them to behave well. She uses positive strategies to manage behaviour, which are appropriate to the age and understanding of the children. Children receive meaningful praise which encourages their confidence and self-esteem and subsequently, they play harmoniously together within a child orientated setting.

Children learn about the world around them on outings and local trips and through discussion with the childminder about difference. The provision of toys and resources that positively reflect the wider community effectively enhances children's understanding and appreciation of difference.

Children benefit from successful working relationships between their carers. Regular, two-way sharing of information ensures high quality, consistent care.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from a well-trained and skilled childminder who is committed to her work and enjoys children's achievements. The childminder is completely dedicated to ensuring the children have an interesting and stimulating day whilst in her care. Children flourish in a setting that is exceptionally well organised, with consistent routines that allow time for quiet and active play. They receive excellent adult support to help them feel secure and confident.

Well-written, comprehensive policies and procedures guide and enhance the childminder's daily practice. Overall, the high quality of the provision means that the childminder meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to continue to review her good practice. She consistently meets children's individual needs through the provision of excellent care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk