

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY251511
Inspection date	08 August 2007
Inspector	Amanda May
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 2003. She lives with her husband, and two children aged nine and six years, in Knaphill, Woking. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding with sleeping facilities available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder currently cares for three children and is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. The childminder walks to local schools and parks. The family has two cats and some fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children who attend the setting are protected from the spread of illness and infection as a result of the childminder's good procedures. Children who wear nappies are changed on a

changing mat which is disinfected thoroughly before it is used for another child. Children begin to learn about keeping themselves healthy as they independently wash their hands before snacks and meals. The childminder reminds children to flush the toilet, and most children can blow their own noses.

The childminder manages accidents and the giving of medication appropriately by receiving written consent from parents, as well as parents signing to acknowledge any accidents which occurred whilst children were in her care. However, parents do not currently sign to acknowledge if medication has been given during the day. This compromises their good health. Children who sleep at the setting use a travel cot in a bedroom where they are allocated their own sheets and blankets to snuggle into. The childminder ensures children's safety whilst they sleep as she listens to a baby monitor constantly.

Children learn about good health through a ready access to drinks and nutritious food which takes account of known allergies. Children enjoy hot evening meals of shepherd's pie and vegetables, or lunches of pasta or sandwiches. Children benefit from the childminder encouraging them to eat five portions of fruit and vegetables every day, a number of which are included in their meals whilst in her care. Children benefit from a good range of physical activities which include use of the garden and regular visits to the local park. Children bounce excitedly on the trampoline in the garden, as they hold hands with their friends to steady them. This contributes to their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children who attend the setting are kept safe and happy through the childminder's good procedures. Children talk with the childminder about what they should do if there was a fire, and practise their evacuation procedure regularly. Children also learn to be safe as they walk to the park or on trips out into the local community. Children hold hands as they cross the road to ensure they all stay together and safe. The childminder carries a card in her purse at all times, explaining she is a registered childminder. This also gives the contact details of the children's parents if required in an emergency, ensuring children are protected and cared for at all times.

The equipment available at the setting is both suitable and safe. Children are reminded that they must play with toys with small parts away from younger children in order to ensure they do not put the little parts in their mouths. Children understand safety rules and adhere to these, ensuring when they play on the trampoline the childminder is close by and the safety net is zipped up to keep them safe. Children are protected through the childminder's clear understanding of issues surrounding safeguarding children. She has a secure policy in place which shares her procedures with parents, outlining the action she would take if she had any concerns about a child's welfare. The childminder has also accessed relevant training in which she updated and extended her understanding further, demonstrating that children's safety at the setting is a top-priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a varied range of activities which contribute very well to their development both inside and outside the home. Children enjoy independently choosing their activities and resources from low-level storage and shelving. The childminder encourages children to take the lead, as they choose books and toys which interest and stimulate them. Children sit together

to look at some books, and are joined by the childminder who encourages them to point out different animals in the pictures. The childminder praises children enthusiastically as they embrace the challenges she sets them. Children giggle and point, grinning proudly as they find the picture of the dog who is hiding.

Children enjoy lots of conversation and discussion with the childminder. They play together making animal impressions. Children walk around the room flapping their arms like a duck, or using their arms as the trunk of an elephant. Children laugh and giggle together as the childminder joins in enthusiastically. Children have a visibly close relationship with the childminder. They snuggle up to her to look at a book together, and smile happily as she is talking to them. Children increase their independence as the childminder encourages them to help themselves to their own drinks, and to find their shoes when it is time to go outside to play. Children as a result, develop high levels of self-esteem and confidence as they take responsibility for their own play and care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents and children's individual needs are met through sharing information and discussing children's routines. Children benefit from settling in visits before they start at the setting permanently. The childminder uses this as an opportunity to share details of children's routines and any individual needs and requirements in order for her to incorporate them as fully as possible within her day. The childminder keeps parents fully informed of her service and the care she provides, as she spends time at the end of each session feeding back about the activities children have enjoyed, and how well they have eaten or slept during the day. Parents are also given copies of the childminder's policies, ensuring they are fully aware of her service, as well as her thorough complaints procedure and behavioural policy. Although, as children are stimulated and interested in the resources which are available to them, behaviour at the setting is very good.

Children develop an awareness of social diversity as they play with resources and taste new foods from around the world. Children eat samosas and spring rolls and enjoy a variety of foods from different countries regularly. Children look at books which include characters from different countries and cultures, along with pictures of people in wheelchairs and those with other special needs. The childminder currently cares for children with learning difficulties and disabilities, and has experience in ensuring they are challenged and supported according to their needs and abilities. Children are all fully included in the setting, and show compassion for each other, regardless of difference. The childminder understands that some children develop special needs, and knows to support these by sharing information with parents, and providing suitable activities to aid their development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

As a result of the childminder organising her time and space effectively, children have fun at the setting as their individual needs are met. Children have space to play, eat and sleep as they choose their own toys and resources. The childminder rotates activities and toys in order to ensure children are continuously stimulated in their play, whilst providing new challenges. The childminder attends various child-minding and toddler groups. This ensures she has a secure

support network in place to discuss concerns or ideas, whilst giving children the opportunity to meet and make new friends.

The childminder has procedures in place which work in practice to promote children's welfare. She shows a good awareness of previous amendments to the National Standards, and displays her registration certificate clearly for parents. Permission slips and contracts are in place for each child, however accident records would benefit from being re-organised to ensure they are kept secure and confidential at all times. The childminder shows a high awareness of the importance of self-development as she accesses regular training and workshops to update her understanding and knowledge to provide a better service to the parents and children in her care. The childminder plans to continue studying for a professional child-care qualification, to ensure best-practice in her service. As a result, 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 extend opportunities to practice fire evacuation procedures and to obtain detailed information from parents, of any allergies, children's symptoms and what action may be needed.

The childminder has implemented these previous recommendations fully. Children practise fire drills regularly, and talk about different escape routes within the home they could use. This allows them to gain a better awareness of how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

The childminder also ensures she receives written information from parents in respect of children's known allergies before they start at the setting, ensuring their health is promoted at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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

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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 storage of completed accident records, in order to ensure they are kept secure and confidential at all times

- ensure parents sign to acknowledge when medication such as Calpol is given, in order to protect children's health and well-being.

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