

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160562
Inspection date	29 August 2007
Inspector	Jacqueline Munden

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 1995. She lives with her two adult children and one school age child in Farnham, Surrey.

All areas of the childminder's home, except the three bedrooms and the sitting room, are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part time basis.

The childminder lives within walking distance to local shops schools and parks.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a certificate in first aid.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is effectively promoted by the childminder who has a good understanding of health, hygiene and nutrition. She takes measures to avoid cross infection through her regular routines. For example, children use individual towels and bedding. Children's health records are maintained well including accidents and the administration of medication. The childminder is well-prepared to respond to emergencies as she holds a current first aid certificate and has parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment.

Children are provided with a diet that is healthy, nutritious and in line with their parents' wishes. Children enjoy healthy snacks such as fruit and drinks are always available.

The childminder recognises the benefits of daily exercise for children. They have regular walks in the local community and develop large muscles as they use the wide range of play equipment in the garden. They develop skills as they climb and slide. Older children play games such as badminton.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and feel at home in the childminder's house. They have ample space to play and move around safely. Children can freely access the wide range of play materials that is available to them. A full range of equipment ensures they are cared for appropriately, all of which is clean, safe and well maintained.

The childminder generally takes appropriate measures to protect children from hazards and keep them safe. For example, cleaning materials are inaccessible and young children wear wrist straps when out walking. Suitable fire safety precautions are in place. For example, a fire blanket is available in the kitchen and smoke detectors are fitted throughout the house. Although an emergency evacuation procedure has been devised, this has not been practised with all children. The childminder helps children learn about keeping themselves safe as she talks to them about 'stranger danger'. The childminder has parental consent in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded, such as permission to take photographs. She has an appropriate knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children. She recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm and shares her child protection policy with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home. They relate well to the childminder who offers a nurturing environment which means children feel secure. Their immediate needs and routines are met for sleep and meal times. Children are confident to ask for help and reach to her for a cuddle.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child development and how to ensure younger children's care and welfare is promoted. She has attended training in and a clear understanding of using the Birth to three matters framework. The childminder plans the day to include quiet and lively times. Children enjoy the interesting range of activities and experiences offered to

them in and outside the home. They have opportunities for creative play using paint, glue and dough. Children develop small muscles and co-ordination as they build with construction blocks. Children particularly enjoy listening to stories and are learning to use books with care. Outside the home children visit the library and meet with other children. This helps them to develop their language and social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. She makes sure their immediate needs are met by keeping to their routines for eating and sleeping. Children develop independence as they are encouraged to put their own shoes on and make choices of what to play with. They grow in confidence as they chat freely with others. Children start to learn about diversity through using resources that promote positive images of race, disability and gender. The childminder has a positive attitude to supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Children behave well; they benefit from the childminder's calm and positive approach to promoting good behaviour. They respond well to her praise and encouragement.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents as they work together to meet the children's individual needs. This includes a written daily diary of meals and rest times for those whose parents want it and regular discussions upon collection for all. Parents are happy and feel they can discuss all areas of their child's care with the childminder. They are generally provided with a good range of information both written and verbal to support the care of the children. They know how to make a complaint and to whom but there is no log in place to record any complaint the childminder may receive. Parents are invited to complete feedback forms to comment on the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation skills. The environment is welcoming and well planned so that children can move around freely and independently. Children get a wide range of play experiences and are well stimulated. The childminder is suitably qualified and committed to improving her skills by attending training. The range of documentation, including parental consent and her own written policies contributes to children's good health, safety and well-being; although there is a weaknesses in the complaint procedure. 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 recommendations were made to obtain parents prior written permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice, obtain the parents signature to acknowledge records of accidents, provide a registration system to include the times of arrival and departure for all minded children and to provide CRB clearance for her sons that had reached 16 years of age.

The protection of children's health is now improved as the childminder has parental permission to act appropriately in a medical emergency and records show that parents are informed of

accidents that occur. Children's safety is promoted as all adults in the childminder's home have been suitably vetted and the times children's attend are recorded appropriately.

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):

- provide a log to record any complaints that are received
- conduct and record the emergency evacuation procedure.

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