

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120936
Inspection date	06 February 2008
Inspector	Maria Lumley
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 1988. She lives with her husband and two grown up children. They live in a cul-de-sac in the Frimley area. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are six children currently on roll, all attend part time. Local schools and preschools are close by.

The childminder attends a number of local parent/toddler groups and is a member of the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a variety of healthy and nutritional food. This includes snacks of fresh fruit and home cooked meals such as shepherds pie and pasta dishes. Parents provide baby foods which the childminder transfers to the fridge to ensure they are appropriately stored

and to prevent food contamination. At snack time the childminder introduces new fruits such as mangoes and kiwis to broaden children's tastes. The childminder talks to the children about the food provided to help develop their understanding about healthy eating. For example, they talk about the benefits of eating fruit instead of crisps. Children have coloured beakers and flasks which are kept out at low level. This ensures that children can identify their own drinks and access them independently, consequently children keep hydrated.

Children are protected from the spread of infection through the daily procedures followed by the childminder. This includes the provision of liquid anti bacterial soaps and disposable paper towels for hand washing. Thorough nappy changing routines minimise the spread of infection. The childminder wears disposable gloves, cleans the changing at between uses and immediately puts soiled nappies outside. The childminder gives children toys to play with and makes eye contact with them during nappy changes, this ensures the children are relaxed and happy.

Children receive prompt care and attention following accidents. The childminder has completed training and has a first aid kit close by, both at home and in the car. Consequently the childminder has the skills and resources to administer basic first aid to children.

Children have very good access to physical play and fresh air. They go on trips to local parks and woods where they climb and slide on large equipment. Children also benefit from weekly visits to a gymnastic group where they enjoy using soft play areas and bouncy castles. They develop balance and co-ordination skills in a safe, fun environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is sufficiently maintained. They are able to move around safely and freely between the different play areas. The childminder monitors the environment and the need to add extra safety measures as children develop. For example, a stair gate has recently been put across the lounge door and a rug has been placed on the fire hearth to ensure that risks to newly mobile children are minimised. However, sharp knives in the kitchen drawer compromise children's safety. A range of clean, age appropriate toys and equipment is available in low level storage units so easily accessible. Children learn about how to keep themselves safe due to the gentle reminders from the childminder during their play. For example, as they get excited during a table activity she explains to take care and sit carefully.

Children develop an understanding about keeping themselves safe when on outings due to procedures followed by the childminder. For example, the use of wrist straps and the explanations given to children about behaviour expectations, such as, a reminder to stay close by. Children learn about the Green Cross Code from an early age. As the childminder discusses the subject a two year old calls out, 'Green is go'. Clear evacuation and fire procedure has been developed. Children take part in emergency evacuation practises which make sure they are clear what to do in an emergency situation.

The childminder has some understanding of her role and responsibilities in safeguarding children. She knows some possible signs and symptoms of abuse, however, is unclear about procedures to follow if she had a concern about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and content in the childminder's care. They have positive relationships with the childminder which helps them feel secure. Children are confident in the familiar routines which take account of their individual needs. For example, babies are given bottles of milk and cuddles when they become tired, this calms and settles them. Children's independence is promoted well by the childminder such as, encouraging them to tidy away after using resources.

Children have opportunities to take part in a variety of activities. There is a good balance between supervised activities, and allowing children the freedom to create their own ideas and use their imagination, such as, in role play. For example, children enjoy using the play food, they set the table and prepare the food and pots of tea. They call out, 'Come on, it's dinner time'. The childminder joins them to eat and the child excitedly pours the tea into the cups.

Children are confident and select their own resources. A two year old child chooses to do some colourings and confidently uses crayons to colour their picture. The childminder encourages colour recognition and asks, 'What colour is this crayon'. The child is unsure, the childminder tells them that it is red and the child repeats the word. They then compare the red crayon to the child's red jumper, matching the colours. The childminder includes younger children and puts a one year old into the high chair, they are given paper and chunky crayons. The childminder demonstrates how to use the crayons and guides the child's hand. The child is happy when they notice the colours appearing onto the paper. The childminder then leaves the child to experiment alone, they bang the crayons onto the paper, mimicking what they have been shown. The child gurgles and smiles, very content and happy as they experiment.

The childminder has completed Birth to three matters training and is currently focusing on supporting toddlers mobility and independence. For example, as young children master crawling, the childminder supports them and encourages them to move around the furniture upright. Children are happy to be supported on their feet and they step around the room.

Children take part in a wide range of interesting play experiences outside the home. The weekly timetable includes visits to toddlers groups and music and gym groups. These experiences enhance children's learning and social skills as they mix with large groups.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals which helps them to feel good about themselves. The childminder is aware of the children's individual needs through close liaison with parents. For example, the childminder responds quickly when a toddler starts to get restless, she offers them some milk and a cuddle which settle the child. All children are included in activities as the childminder adapts the experiences offered to suit their different ages and stages of development.

Children are well behaved and busy. A few 'simple rules' about behaviour expectations are in place. For example, the children know they are not allowed to run indoors or jump on the furniture. Children help to tidy away their toys when they have finished playing with them, they return them to the cupboard to make room for other toys. Behaviour management strategies are age appropriate and effective. For example, the childminder says a firm, 'No' to very young children and explanation with older children. Children learn manners from an early age and the

childminder is a positive role model for them. She reminds them to say 'Please' and 'Thank you' when they sit down for their snack. The childminder offers high levels of verbal praise throughout the day which builds children's self esteem and confidence.

Children learn about the wider world through discussion and planned activities. As children play in the conservatory the childminder points out the squirrels that are running up the tree. The children watch with fascination as the squirrels race to the top and disappear from view. There are plans for the children to learn about Chinese New Year next week. They will be dressing up in Chinese costumes and eating rice using chop sticks. Resources such as books will be used to support the activity and enhance children's learning.

Children benefit from the regular exchange of information between the childminder and parents. Daily informal discussions makes sure details about a child's welfare are shared. 'Our day' diaries are completed for younger children and record their routines, sleep, nappy changes and diets. These form a vital link between the childminder and parents. A complaints procedure has been developed in line with regulation.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and relaxed environment. The space is well organised to enable children to freely move around the play areas, however, not all risks to children have been identified and addressed. The flexible structure of the day provides opportunities for children to make decisions about their play, with times for both active and quiet activities.

All aspects of documentation are in place. However, not all accident records include children's dates of birth. Individual contracts and parental agreements are formulated with parents which include comprehensive consents. Policies and procedures have been developed to support the childminder's practices. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that all hazardous materials are kept out of reach of children and to ensure that the emergency evacuation procedures are effective. Safety at the setting has improved as washing powder has been moved out of children's reach and the emergency evacuation procedures are practised with the children.

The childminder also agreed to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment on all children. Documentation has been improved and includes consents for emergency medical advice or treatment for each child.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- ensure that children's dates of birth are detailed on accident records
- improve knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures
- ensure that sharp utensils are inaccessible

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