

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111787
Inspection date	12 February 2008
Inspector	Mandy Gannon
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 has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and two youngest children aged 13 and eight years in a semi-detached house in a residential area of Farnborough. Minded children have access to the ground and first floor, with toilet and sleeping facilities provided on the first floor. The family have a pet dog and goldfish in the garden pond. There is a fully enclosed garden and parks nearby. She is registered to care for six children under eight, of which no more than three may be under five years and no more than one may be under one year. This registration does not include overnight care. She currently has two pre school aged children who attend on a part time and full time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit as they have nutritious snacks provided by the childminder. Children independently access fresh drinking water and develop their understanding of a healthy diet through regular drinks. Children bring packed lunches from home, which are effectively stored and reheated. The childminder has arranged to attend a food hygiene course in the next month.

Children participate in cooking activities. Children's dietary requirements are met as the childminder works closely with parents to ensure she is aware of any allergies or preferences.

Children benefit as they have an accurate understanding of the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They are aware to wash their hands prior to eating snacks and after visiting the toilet and are actively supported by the childminder who ensures they are washed thoroughly. Children access their own individual towel, which minimises the risk of the spread of germs and cross infection. Children's individual needs are met as they rest and sleep according to those needs and in close discussion with parents. Each child has their own separate travel cot and linen to minimise cross infection. Children's health is promoted by the childminder through effective policies and procedures, a current first aid certificate and the future attendance on the food hygiene course. Clear, concise documentation is in place to promote children's welfare and includes; an accident record, medication record and permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice.

Children benefit from regular opportunities to participate in physical activities. They walk to and from school, visit local parks, baby gym and have access to a separate area of the enclosed back garden. The outcome for children is that they are beginning to understand the benefits of physical activity contributing to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe, secure and well protected. Competent fire safety precautions are promoted as the childminder has a written fire evacuation plan, completes regular fire drills with all the children, which she records in her register, has smoke detectors on each floor and in each bedroom, has a fire blanket in the kitchen and a carbon monoxide detector. Children benefit from a well organised space where the childminder has identified and minimised any potential hazards. Children are able to independently access toys and resources from the play room.

Children's protection is promoted as the childminder has a clear understanding of her role and responsibility with regard to child protection. She is booked to attend a child protection course in the next month and has the flow chart 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused'. She has detailed policies and procedures in place which she shares with parents and which includes up to date information about the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and contact details.

Children's safety and well-being is promoted as the childminder is well organised, with extensive policies, procedures and documents in place. For example, she has permission to transport children, take photographs and make observations. Although, safety procedures for the use of the trampoline are not in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are interested and involved as they make decisions about their play. They access an extensive range of toys and resources suitable for their age and stage of development, which they independently select from the play room. Children develop high levels of confidence and self-esteem as the childminder is interested and appropriately involved in their play offering praise and encouragement. Children are happy, settled and actively involved in an environment where they flourish.

Children relate extremely well to the childminder and discuss how much they like coming to her house. They enjoy playing musical instruments and participate in music sessions. Children benefit from a selection of instruments from around the world and the childminder supports children in learning how to play them. For example, an instrument that is shaken makes a noise like thunder and the childminder uses the rainmaker, the child spontaneously starts singing 'I hear thunder'. They have opportunities to participate in activities both inside and outside of the home and have access to an enclosed area of the garden with a wide range of toys, including a trampoline, ride on toys and play house.

The childminder is developing her knowledge and understanding of how children develop through accessing materials and courses. She has booked herself on an introductory course on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and has begun to make regular observations on the children in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make positive relationships with one another, the childminder and her family. Children's individual needs are met as the childminder is aware of their developmental stage and manages behaviour using appropriate strategies. Children behave very well and the childminder ensures that children receive consistent boundaries which are promoted through her policies and procedures and working closely with parents and carers. A complaints procedure is in place, which is shared with the parents and includes the address and telephone number of the regulator.

Children benefit from a wide range of toys and resources to reflect a positive view of the wider world. For example, posters are displayed on the wall showing different languages and ethnicity, the childminder introduces other languages when counting the stairs, children enjoy accessing musical instruments from around the world and learning how to use them, and they play with small world figures that reflect other cultures and disabilities.

Children's needs are paramount as the childminder works closely with parents and carers to meet their individual needs. Detailed policies and procedures are shared with parents and communication diaries are in place in order to address their needs. Contracts are in place and permissions have been obtained to ensure that all parties are clear about their responsibilities and the needs of the child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children benefit from a well organised environment and childminder, where the children are her highest priority. The childminder meets the required ratios and organises space, taking into account her grandchild who attends on a part time basis. Children are able to freely access toys and resources.

Children benefit as the childminder keeps up to date with changes through accessing publications and training. Detailed comprehensive policies and procedures are in place, which are shared with parents and carers and that the childminder regularly reviews and updates when required. Documentation is well maintained and organised to ensure and promote children's welfare and well-being.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to; request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and to ensure that children have access to an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has sought permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice from all parents. She has extensively increased her toys and resources to promote equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice.

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):

- ensure that safety procedures are followed in the use of the trampoline in the garden

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