

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112616
Inspection date	20 December 2007
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 1993. She lives with her husband and adult son in a house in Yateley. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor and the bathroom and master bedroom only on the first floor. Toilet facilities are available on the first floor and sleeping takes place in the master bedroom or bed room downstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a cat as a pet. The childminder is registered for six children under the age of eight and three under five and one under one year old. She currently has nine children on roll who all attend on a part time basis. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing a strong understanding of good hygiene practices; they wash their hands before eating and after visiting the toilet. The childminder ensures she supports younger children in hand washing and reminds older children. Good quality hygiene standards are promoted within the property, nappy changing procedures are effective with hand washing in

between each nappy change, the wiping of surfaces and the appropriate disposal of nappies. Children dry their hands using paper towels which promotes good standards of hygiene and minimises the spread of infection. The childminder has documentation in place to promote children's welfare. She promotes children's health and well being as she has attended training in first aid and has an up to date certificate.

Children have healthy, balanced diets and this includes a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables. When children bring their own food a fridge is available for appropriate storage. Children have juice, milk or water to drink and the childminder encourages and reminds children of the importance of frequent drinking of water and ensures it is always available. Children's dietary requirements are taken into consideration. Children enjoy cooking activities and good hygiene practices are promoted.

Children have regular opportunities to participate in a range of physical activities. The childminder does not use a vehicle and walks everywhere; they visit local parks, play in the enclosed garden on ride on toys and visit local carer and toddler groups. 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 protected as the childminder has a clear understanding of her role and responsibility to protect children. She has a clear understanding of child protection and has the flow chart available of procedures to follow; she has a policy in place that she shares with parents and carers. Although, she does not have up to date details of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

Children are protected both inside and outside of the home as risks are identified and minimised. Children's safety is promoted and children are aware that they must take off their socks so that they don't slip if they are going to stand on a chair in the kitchen and complete a cooking activity and that they must not touch the bowl that has just come out of the microwave as it is hot. Fire safety is promoted as a fire blanket is in place on the kitchen wall, smoke alarms are in place on each level, a carbon monoxide detector is present and fire evacuation from the premises has been considered.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy being at the setting, they are involved and interested in a variety of activities. For example, they excitedly participate in a cooking activity making chocolates to take home and confidently explain to me what they have completed. Children benefit as they are well supported by a childminder who understands their individual needs and supports them appropriately. Children receive effective praise and encouragement building their confidence and self esteem. Children build positive relationships with the childminder and their peers and play happily in a relaxed, settled environment.

Children participate in activities both inside and outside of the home. They enjoy cooking and craft activities. They have a wide range of toys and activities available that they can choose from and the childminder rotates. They regularly visit carer and toddler groups and their local library where they participate in music and story time.

The childminder is aware of forthcoming changes and has attended the Early Years Foundation Stage briefing in her local area and has discussed the forthcoming changes with her parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make strong positive relationships with the childminder and their peers; they are all happy, settled and involved. Children behave well and the childminder has clear strategies and policies in place that she shares with parents to manage children's behaviour and has an understanding of the individual development needs of the children in her care. Children develop a clear sense of belonging as they bring a comforter from home and the childminder is aware of its importance, she is sensitive to their individual needs and works closely with the families being aware of changes in circumstances that may affect a child.

A strong partnership with parents is in place where regular discussion with parents takes place and written communication diaries are in place for younger children. A complaints policy and procedure is in place that includes the address and telephone number of the regulator and is shared with the parents.

Children develop a positive sense of their local community through visiting toddler groups and sessions at the library. Children have access to some resources that reflect a positive view of the wider world and have plotted on a map of Great Britain where family and friends live and are expanding this to include the world.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children can freely access resources. The childminder is well organised and meets the needs of the varying ages of children in her care providing appropriate activities.

Policies and procedures are in place and are shared with the parents and carers. The majority of required documentation is in place, although sufficient detail is not recorded in the register and the contact details in the child protection procedure are not in place.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to; complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children and record the full names of minded children into the register and ensure it is signed by parents. The childminder has completed first aid training and obtained a certificate. The register clearly shows times of arrival and departure and parental signatures are obtained. Although, the full names of the children are not in place.

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 clear information and details are recorded in the register
- ensure that policies and procedures comply with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and that relevant contact details are available

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