

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120379
Inspection date	31 March 2008
Inspector	Anne Gunston

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 satisfactory. 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 1991 and is registered to provide care for a total of five children under eight years of age. She is currently caring for two children who require part time care. She lives with her husband and three adult children in a four bedroom house in an urban setting in Burpham, near Guildford. It is possible to walk to some local primary schools, pre-schools, parks and local shops from the home.

The ground floor of the premises is used for childminding, children have access to a lounge for play, rest and toilet facilities are provided on this floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is given appropriate protection as the childminder holds a valid first aid qualification, and maintains a well stocked first aid box. Records are kept of any medication which children require, or accidents which happen while they are in the childminder's care.

These are shared with parents to ensure the care of the children is continuous. Children are given some protection from contagious illnesses; the childminder makes parents aware in discussion that they should not send children who have been unwell. Children are able to be independent in some aspects of their personal care, although the childminder does not always prompt them to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after use of the toilet or before meals.

Children's dietary needs are met as parents provide all food and drink. The childminder ensures she has details of any allergies or preferences and tries, with parents, to encourage children to eat a balanced diet. She is aware that children need to drink regularly in order that they remain well hydrated.

Children take part in physical activities at parks close to the childminder's home, where they enjoy space and plenty of fresh air. The childminder takes simple steps to ensure that walking is part of children's daily routine, for example, by parking her car some distance from the school. Children use a range of equipment such as bats and balls, skittles and a small slide in the childminder's garden, weather permitting.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a clean, secure family home where they have appropriate space for play. Children can move freely between their play room, the toilet and washing facilities on the ground floor, and the kitchen which is used for meals. The childminder is keenly aware of safety issues and takes precautions to minimise risks to children within the home. She stores medication well out of children's reach, and makes sure that the door to the internal garage remains locked to prevent children from accessing hazardous tools and materials. The childminder monitors that children use the kitchen for meal times only, although as some play materials are stored in this room this does mean that children cannot access these independently.

Children learn to keep themselves safe by the discussions they have with the childminder when outdoors. They are taught how to cross the road in safety, and realise that they must hold hands and keep to the inner edge of pavements. The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and is able to identify the signs or symptoms which may indicate that a child is at risk. She is aware of the need to discuss and record any concerns with parents; she would refer any ongoing concerns to the relevant agency if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the attention of the childminder and settle quickly into play when in her home. They develop their imagination with role play toys, and pretend to prepare 'cups of tea with lemon'. Children's communication skills grow in conversations with the childminder, who spends time talking to children about what they are doing. The childminder develops children's understanding, for example, by giving them a clear explanation of what an X-ray machine does, and why a plaster cast is needed to mend broken bones.

Children are in a regular routine which takes account of other experiences in their day. They are able to make some decisions about their play when in the childminder's care, and in addition to acting out stories, they can choose to read books, do jigsaws, play team games or watch

some television. However, children have little opportunity to express their imagination or be creative with paints, recycled or modelling materials such as dough.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive care which is consistent with their parents' wishes as the childminder establishes friendly relationships, and obtains written information concerning children's individual needs. Daily discussion takes place, and written agreements exist between the childminder and parents, to ensure that both parties are clear on the working arrangements. The childminder has a positive attitude towards the care of children who have additional needs, and recognises the need to have open discussion with parents before making a firm commitment to the care of the children.

Children are behaving well in the childminder's care, and show understanding of behavioural boundaries. They recognise the need to share resources. This is reinforced by the childminder, who describes appropriate methods to manage any unwanted behaviour, depending on the age and level of understanding of the child. In discussions with the childminder, children learn to be sensitive to other's feelings and develop positive attitudes towards anyone they perceive as different. However, children have access to few resources which reflect other cultures and the childminder plans no activities to raise children's awareness of the wider world.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's willingness to update her knowledge of childcare initiatives. The childminder holds the necessary qualifications for her role, and is actively seeking further training. Children are protected as the childminder understands her responsibility to ensure that adults in the home are suitably vetted. They are able to move safely around areas of the home identified for their use, and benefit from good supervision. The childminder is aware of her registration requirements and maintains ratios; however her records of children present are not accurate.

The childminder maintains all necessary documentation in an orderly manner; she keeps these records secure and shares them with parents at appropriate times. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve the organisation of toys and review routines for their cleaning to ensure children have access to a wide range of well maintained play materials. With the exception of writing and drawing materials, resources are accessible to children in floor level boxes in the playroom. The childminder completes a monthly clean of toys and equipment, and increases the cleaning routines if children have been unwell to further protect them from risk of infection.

The childminder was also asked to plan a range of activities and play opportunities in order to develop children's creative and imaginative skills. The childminder is aware that it is her role to encourage children's imagination by interacting with them, but relies on role play toys alone to stimulate children's imagination. This remains an area for improvement.

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 satisfactory. 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 you consistently encourage children to practise good hygiene routines
- provide children with easy access to an increased range of arts and crafts resources and activities
- ensure the register is an accurate record of children's attendance
- consider ways to increase children's access to resources and activities reflecting diversity.

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