

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120617
Inspection date	25 February 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 outstanding. 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, and is registered to provide care for a total of six children under eight years of age. The childminder works every day with assistants, and is able to care for more children at these times. Currently there are 12 children on roll, who require a mix of full and part-time care. She lives with her family in a detached house near Guildford town centre. Children have access to a playroom, sitting room, kitchen and downstairs toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed, well equipped garden for outdoor play. The family have one dog. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the exceptional attention which the childminder gives to protecting their health. They are cared for in an extremely clean, well organised home; the routines employed by the childminder and her assistants maintain a healthy environment. For example, disposable gloves are used when changing children's nappies, which are then double bagged and disposed of immediately outside of the home. Children learn sensible steps to maintain their own good

health. They are taught to use individual paper towels for hand washing and learn the importance of personal hygiene, for example, as they wash their hands before meals. The childminder's policy makes it evident to parents that sick children must be kept at home, to prevent the spread of infection. Children's welfare is assured as the childminder has an efficient system of recording any accidents which occur, or when children require medication. Parents are asked to give consent to seek emergency medical treatment, should this be necessary, and are expected to provide a signature to confirm they have seen all records relating to children's health. The childminder and her assistants hold valid first aid qualifications; an extensive range of first aid materials are kept in the home and taken on outings. Children's medical needs are constantly met in accordance with their parents' wishes.

Children benefit from an excellent range of planned and unplanned activities which promote their physical development. They use a wide range of equipment such as hoops, sit and ride cars and a swing in the childminder's garden. The childminder recognises the value of her garden and local community as a learning environment. Children enjoy frequent opportunities for play in the fresh air and enjoy walks, for example, to watch the barges or feed ducks and swans at the lock close to the childminder's home.

Children's dietary needs are really well catered for; the childminder feels strongly that children must have a nutritionally balanced diet. She prepares home cooked meals daily, and provides organic foods whenever possible. Children enjoy an extensive menu which is planned in advance and shown to parents. They are introduced to different tastes, such as a mild curry and rice prepared by the childminder to raise their awareness of Indian culture. The childminder recognises that children require regular snacks and meals, to maintain their energy levels, particularly if they arrive at her home early in the morning or have done energetic activities. Children enjoy healthy snacks of a variety of fruits mid morning and are able to access their own drink throughout the day. The childminder takes exceptional care to ensure that children's individual needs are met. She completed training in nutrition which enables her to advise and support parents whose children have particular allergies or intolerances. She pays close attention to the preparation and storage of children's food; the home is a 'nut free zone', and the separate refrigerators are consistently maintained at the correct temperature and stocked to ensure no contamination occurs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from a very well planned and spacious home environment; they can easily access the extensive range of toys and play materials as these are well organised in low level cupboards or at floor level. Children are able to make choices and develop independence as they play. They are able to sleep comfortably in quiet rooms on the ground floor, separate from the play areas; the childminder and her assistants use intercom systems routinely to ensure children are closely monitored while they are sleeping. Children's play areas have direct access to the large garden, which is also well planned and provides a safe, stimulating environment for play.

Children's welfare is promoted effectively because the childminder and her assistants are very aware of safety issues. The childminder has prepared a comprehensive pack of information to take on outings, to raise awareness of her childminding status and provide essential information on children in her care, should an accident occur. Risk assessments are done on all areas of the home and garden throughout the day, to ensure children's safety. These checks include the toys and equipment, and guarantee that these are of excellent quality, and remain clean and

safe for children's use. Children are developing good awareness of safety issues as they regularly practise fire drills. The childminder has a well planned written procedure, fire prevention equipment is sited throughout the home and additional preventative measures, such as a carbon monoxide monitor, are used. The premises are a very safe, secure environment.

Children are safeguarded from harm by the childminder's secure knowledge of child protection procedures. She fully understands her responsibilities, and ensures that these are known to her assistants. The child protection policy is made available to parents. The childminder is very aware of the signs and symptoms which may indicate that a child is at risk, and would record her concerns in a confidential manner. She takes steps to ensure that she holds up to date contact details, and is clear on the referral procedures, should she have ongoing concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the childminder's substantial knowledge of child development. She completes frequent assessments of each child's progress, and accurately identifies activities and opportunities which promote their overall welfare. The childminder gives careful thought to her planning and arranges wonderful experiences for children in her care. Children enthusiastically wiggle their bodies and sing along to Head Shoulders Knees and Toes, shaking wrist bells and banging drums to accompany the music. The childminder plans activities which build on children's natural curiosity; children are intrigued by the childminder's suggestion that they look for a giraffe in her garden. Her exceptional forward planning ensures this is a completely successful activity. Children are shown a model giraffe, and the childminder carefully explains how they can identify the animal by its long neck. Children excitedly follow the trail of footsteps laid in the garden and find the large model hidden.

The childminder recognises that children also need opportunities to play and learn independently, and allows plenty of time for this within the daily routine. Children can make decisions about the toys they wish to use; they confidently choose to join friends stacking bricks, come together to enjoy a story, or just enjoy looking at the photographs on each other's coat peg. Children are listened to closely by the childminder, and her assistants, who talk to them constantly and value what they have to say. Children are becoming skilful communicators, they are keen to talk about members of their family, and respond well to the genuine interest shown in them. Children benefit from the affection and kindness shown to them; they are completely secure and gain reassurance from the cuddles and high levels of attention they receive.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are totally valued as individuals and shown excellent levels of care and consideration by the childminder. The childminder obtains comprehensive details about parents' wishes and children's individual routines, and ensures that she and her assistants follow this guidance without exception. Written agreements exist with all parents, ensuring an honest, open working relationship. Each family receives a welcome pack when they first register with the childminder. This provides a great deal of information for parents on her service, and a gift of a beaker and bib for the child. Parents have access to all of the childminder's policies and procedures, which fully explain how she meets the requirements of the National Standards. The childminder uses a daily diary for each child in her care, to record their progress. She shares this regularly with

parents and asks that they contribute their views. Photographs are also taken of children at play, with parents' consent, so parents truly understand how children spend their days. The childminder's commitment to working with parents so closely benefits the children enormously.

Children are extremely well settled, they develop trusting relationships with the childminder and her assistants. Children's behaviour is very good; they take turns willingly and share resources, secure in the knowledge that the childminder is monitoring that everyone receives equal access to the play materials, and equal amounts of her time and attention. The childminder puts her behaviour management policy into practice in an effortless manner; any unwanted behaviour is dealt with using positive methods. For example, children may be told that they have made a bad choice, which ensures their self-esteem is undamaged and improvements in behaviour are achieved. The childminder and her assistants are excellent role models for children in their care; they speak to each other in a respectful, friendly manner, and are extremely patient.

Children benefit from the inclusive practice of the childminder; she works very hard to provide an impressive selection of activities and resources to raise their awareness of our diverse society. Children take part in activities related to celebrations and cultural festivals, and use resources such as dolls and books in their daily play. Children with additional needs are given consistent support; the childminder liaises closely with parents and others involved in the care of the child to ensure their needs are recognised and progress is achieved.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very well supported by the childminder, who is dedicated to meeting their needs in full. She holds more than adequate qualifications for her role, but is committed to continually updating her knowledge on all aspects of childcare practice. Children are independent and keen to attend because the childminder plans activities, and organises her time and resources so well, in preparation for their care.

The childminder thoroughly understands the requirements of her registration, and is vigilant in ensuring that she complies with these at all times. There are well established procedures in place to recruit and check the suitability of assistants. The childminder realises her responsibilities as an employer and supervises the work of the assistants who are employed to work with her each day. This ensures children are very well supported by highly motivated childcare professionals. The childminder has all essential documentation in place, and stores this in a confidential, secure manner. She shares records with parents as necessary to promote the welfare of the children. 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 consider escape routes from the upstairs bedroom, in the event of a fire. The first floor of the home is no longer used by minded children, although evacuation from all areas of the ground floor is well planned and practised, to prepare children well for emergency situations.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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