

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	120887
Inspection date	28 March 2008
Inspector	Michele, Karen Beasley

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 1989. She lives with her husband and their teenage child in a terraced house situated in a quiet residential road in Staines. There are local amenities near-by. Minding is confined to the ground floor of the house and there is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight years on a full time and part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the Surrey Childminding Network and has an NVQ level 3 in Child Care and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and are developing good self care skills through daily routines and discussion. For example, the children are encouraged to wash their

hands before snacks and meals and after using the toilet facilities or after messy activities. The childminder has a good understanding of the procedures to record all accidents that occur on the premises and she ensures parents sign to acknowledge that they have been informed, helping to keep children healthy. Parents give written consent for the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment and to administer medication. Children will receive appropriate treatment if an accident occurs because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and a first aid kit is in place.

Children benefit from a nutritious diet because the childminder has a clear understanding of healthy eating. Parents provide most children's meals, however the childminder is flexible in providing a wide range of nutritional planned meals if required and fruit for snacks. The childminder discusses the needs of each child with the parents in detail and records the information on their registration forms.

Children have ample opportunities to develop their large muscle skills during activities in the garden. They enjoy a wide range of physical activities such as riding bikes and trikes. They go outside daily to reap the benefits of fresh air, for outings to soft play areas, the park and mother and toddler group.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children learn, play and move around freely and independently as the childminder has minimised risks within the home and garden. Such as radiator guards and socket covers being in place. An emergency evacuation plan is in place and fire procedures are carried out with the children. This ensures children's safety in an emergency. Children can independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment. Play equipment is stored in low level storage boxes in the lounge. This allows children to become independent in their choices of equipment, which the childminder supports and encourages, promoting their self esteem.

Children are protected and safeguarded from harm, because the childminder has a good understanding of her role with regards to child protection. Secure systems are in place, to ensure the safe arrival and collection of children. The childminder has a good knowledge of how to implement her written child protection policies and procedures, ensuring children are safeguarded from harm whilst in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the continuity of care, the childminder meets their individual needs for care and sleep. The childminder has a good understanding of children's developmental needs. The childminder is aware to update her knowledge in line with future new legislation. She participates fully during activities such as helping to make Easter baskets and edible Easter nests. The childminder sits at the children's level, encouraging children to join in. Children have many opportunities to develop a good range of skills and progress well in all areas in a stimulating and interesting environment. Children enjoy playing with cars and a garage, making mosaic pictures and playing with electronic toys.

They enjoy a range of experiences that contribute to their physical development and enjoy trips to the local park and playing in the garden. They develop social skills as the childminder

meets with other childminder's from the local childminding network and friends who have children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and self-assured in the childminder's care. They show a real sense of security and belonging and are valued by the childminder. Young children thrive as they initiate their own learning through play. Their behaviour is good as the childminder praises and promotes their self esteem at all times.

The childminder's interaction with children is good and she has a good knowledge of their individual needs, likes and interests, enabling each child to reach their full potential whilst in her care. The childminder has had experience of minding children with learning difficulties. Through discussion the childminder was able to demonstrate a clear understanding of her responsibilities. She would be happy to liaise with other agencies and would always work closely with the parents to meet the individual needs of the children.

All children benefit from good working relationships between the childminder and their parents. Good strong links are in place between home and the setting, for example, through informal discussions at the beginning and end of the day. Parents are well informed about the childminder's service through the childminder's extensive portfolio. This includes a vast selection of training certificates and written policies and procedures which parents sign to say they have read and understood.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children thrive in the setting and receive good quality care because the childminder is well organised and plans her day accordingly to ensure she meets the needs of all children attending. She has a well thought out routine, and adapts this to incorporate those of younger and older children, helping to establish secure relationships and a sense of belonging. Children benefit because the childminder is qualified and is active in improving her practice by identifying continual training needs.

Children's care is enhanced by written policies and procedures which fully support the childminder's practice to a good standard. The childminder gives priority to protecting the safety of children, promoting their well-being and ensuring that all children develop to their full potential. Parents are kept well informed about the service provided by regular verbal and clear written communication. Overall, the provision 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 develop the range of resources for older children. The childminder has resources and equipment in place for older children. This ensures their needs are met.

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):

- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of childcare issues and related regulations.

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