

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	121670
Inspection date	18 March 2008
Inspector	Teresa Elkington

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 was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and two children aged 15 and 14 years in Redhill, Surrey. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five, three of whom attend on a part time basis and one on a full time basis. She attends the local parent/toddler group. The family have a dog, rabbit and one chicken. The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a home that is clean and maintained to a good standard. They enjoy a healthy lifestyle as the childminder follows appropriate guidelines and effective procedures in all areas of the provision. Children learn the importance of good practice when developing their independence in their personal care routines. For example, the use of individual

hand towels and flannels ensures that children are protected from cross contamination. The childminder has a policy in place to support the care of children who are unwell, which includes details of exclusion periods to ensure that children do not attend when unwell, protecting others from the risk of infection. All relevant medical and health documentation is in place. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and accessible first aid box which ensures that the health needs of children are effectively promoted as they are well taken care of in the event of an accident or if they become ill. Children are able to enjoy observing and handling the household pets, due to the childminder's effective procedures.

A clear food and drinks policy reflects the childminder's commitment to meeting children's dietary preferences and offering healthy, nourishing and nutritious meals and snacks. The childminder liaises closely with parents and carers regarding meal provision, allergies and preferences. Children have access to regular drinks throughout the day to ensure that they are well hydrated.

Children benefit from a range of outdoor activities which are undertaken throughout the week to encourage socialisation skills and to promote their awareness of a healthy lifestyle. For example, visits to Mother and Toddler groups, walks with the family dog, visits to the park and playtimes in the garden. Children use a range of equipment offering many opportunities to encourage different types of movement and physical exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a comfortable and secure environment. They are appropriately protected from harm as the childminder uses risk assessments and well implemented policies and procedures to ensure that children are safeguarded. However, the fire evacuation procedure does not include a place of safety to ensure children's safety is maintained in the event of an emergency. On outings, children stay close to the childminder and play within her sight at all times. This enables them to learn to protect themselves and develop a sense of danger, reassured that the childminder is close by to offer support.

Children use an appropriate, safe and suitable range of play resources and equipment, which meets and supports the needs of all children being cared for. All equipment is of good quality and design and well maintained through regular checks and cleaning regimes, ensuring that they are safe and ready for use by the children.

Children are fully protected as the childminder has a sound understanding of her role and responsibilities in safeguarding children. She is fully aware of appropriate procedures to put into practice if necessary and provides parents with information regarding the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed and happy in the childminder's care. She knows all the children extremely well and is very aware of their differing needs and interests. For example, children are given cuddles and reassurance when they are restless and tired; a range of activities are made available which highlight children's individual interests. Children receive appropriate support, guidance and individual attention from the childminder as they participate in the wealth of learning opportunities available to them. They show delight as they play the piano

and as they find out how to operate resources for example the cassette player. Younger children are well supported in reaching appropriate milestones. For example, non-mobile babies are gently encouraged to develop and strengthen their muscle movements, by having toys placed slightly out of reach from them. Children have good opportunities to socialise with other children. They regularly attend the local mother and toddler group and enjoy many outings and visits.

Children have many opportunities for independent play and can access a range of toys and resources for themselves. They show confidence as they move around the rooms accessing play materials of their choosing. Children enjoy a wealth of creative activities to encourage their creative flair from an early age. For example, they sit for sustained periods of time, being fully engrossed in their chosen activity of sticking, creating collage pictures which are made from a range of collage materials that are available to them.

The childminder has a sound understanding of how to promote children's development. She plans appropriate play experiences and is aware of how to use play opportunities to stimulate learning. The childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework, although she does not refer to this when planning activities for the children. As a result, her observations of children's developmental progress are not linked to the framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding to their individual needs. Children's awareness of the wider world is promoted through the use of resources, which helps them to develop a positive attitude towards diversity. The childminder's sound understanding of equality of opportunity is evident throughout her practise and reflected in her written policies. This ensures all children are made welcome and are fully included in the life of the setting.

Clear rules and boundaries are set which are consistently applied and help children behave well. They respond to the ongoing praise and encouragement they receive, which increases their self worth and helps them to feel good about themselves. Appropriate behaviour management strategies are employed, according to the ages and stage of development of the children, which helps them to understand right from wrong.

Regular, effective communication with parents develops strong partnerships with the childminder. Information is shared between them that ensures children's needs are effectively met and that they are treated as individuals, which makes them feel valued. For example, each child has a folder containing all their personal details, as well as daily journals providing parents with a clear view of how their children spend their days.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care, learning and play is enhanced by the childminder's professional approach and good organisation skills. Space is used appropriately and the day is well organised to ensure that all children's individual needs are met. The childminder uses effective and well implemented policies and procedures to ensure children are well protected and cared for. All of the legally required records and documentation are clearly presented and well maintained. The certificate

of registration and other relevant information is displayed and made available to parents, in order to keep them fully informed about the service she provides for the children.

The childminder has a full understanding of her role and responsibilities as a childminder and adheres to the National Standards. She is committed to updating her knowledge to build on her good practice which ensures that she maintains a high regard for the well-being of all children and their development in their early years.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to ensure children have an appropriate range of resources which reflect positive images of diversity, obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children. Children have access to a range of toys and resources that reflect positive images of diversity to support children's understanding of the world in which they live. Permission forms for the administration of medication have been put into place, which parents complete on each occasion that medication is required.

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:

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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 a place of safety is organised in the event of a fire which is known by parents
- consider using the Birth to three matters framework in the planning of activities and observations of children's development

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