

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124648
Inspection date	15 October 2007
Inspector	Gillian Cubitt
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?

Linda Perry was originally registered in 1975 under the local authority. She lives in a bungalow in Coulsdon, Surrey. The childminder has three adult children who have now left home. However, the childminder cares for her two grandchildren of preschool age. The whole of the childminder's home is used for childminding and there is an 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 on a part time basis. Rooms available to the children include a playroom, kitchen and a bedroom for sleeping. Children also use the lounge occasionally for quiet time. The family have a dog and a tropical fish aquarium.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, well maintained home where the children happily play which supports their emotional wellbeing. Their health is promoted well because the childminder reminds them to wash their hands, especially after going to the lavatory, before meals and after

stroking the dog. Children's well-being is further promoted due to the childminder's knowledge of first aid and her practical, common-sense methods for dealing with accidents.

Children are well nourished. The childminder offers to provide meals for children which are nutritious, balanced and take into account children's dietary needs, likes and dislikes. Home cooked meals such as gammon and vegetables followed by fresh fruit helps children to develop good eating habits. Babies snuggle in the childminder's arms whilst drinking milk and older children are able to access drinks throughout the day whenever they are thirsty. The childminder shares with parents details of children's snacks and meals each day, thus contributing to children's healthy growth.

Children are able to rest and be active according to their needs. Babies and young children sleep in separate rooms which ensures that they are not disturbed and older children are able to relax, drawing or looking at books in their playroom. The large garden is easily accessible to all children where they have a good variety of outside play equipment which develops their physical and coordination skills, all of which constitutes to promoting their health and wellbeing as they exercise in the fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment which has been adapted for the purpose, enabling them to feel comfortable and secure. A selection of age-appropriate toys are easily accessible in the playroom which promotes children's independence in their choices. The childminder monitors children's activities and offers explanations, where necessary, so children learn to play safely. Equipment is clean and suitably maintained, contributing to children's safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has implemented some safety measures within the home to minimise the risks. For example, installing smoke alarms, fire blanket and making hazardous substances inaccessible to children. Outside, children play in a very safe garden which is level and has secured climbing apparatus. The childminder also has rigorous rules about children leaving the home, ensuring that no child opens the garden gate without the supervision of herself or a parent. When on outings children know they have to hold each others hands or the buggy to ensure their safety. Children are also safe because the childminder obtains parents permission for outings although permission for car journeys is not clear. She ensures that all emergency numbers are carried with her at all times to ensure children's safety in the event of an emergency.

Children are protected as the childminder has an adequate knowledge of procedures she would follow if she had concerns about children in her care. However, she does not have the guidelines from the local Safeguarding Board which ensures that she has up to date information on procedures for protecting children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and secure in the childminder's care. They have developed warm, trusting relationships with the childminder and seek a lap to sit on when tired or just need a cuddle. The childminder involves herself in children's activities, for example, encouraging them to access the toys from the immense selection available in the play room. This means that children are constantly occupied whilst they are learning to share, take turns and play co-operatively.

Children benefit from the good variety of activities which support their learning and development. They are able to make their own choices in their activities which promotes their independence. Children enjoy imaginative play, for example, playing with dolls, dressing them up to keep them warm. They sit at their small tables to draw attractive pictures with crayons which develops their creativity and imagination. Their language skills are developing well as they talk to the childminder about what they are doing and they respond to simple questions which encourage them to think. Games and activities are used to introduce numbers and colour recognition, size and shape. The well planned, easily accessible garden gives children opportunities to extend their physical skills, using a good variety of garden equipment where they can climb, run and use other wheeled toys. Furthermore, children are increasingly becoming confident in their personal care. For example, they are not rushed to put on their own shoes before going out. They are allowed to take their time to get it right. This gives them a feeling of control and achievement in their tasks. Children are also given appropriate praise and encouragement which supports their self-esteem and helps them to make good progress in their development.

Children under three are cared for appropriately. The childminder has a full range of suitable toys and equipment for young children to explore. For example, musical toys, bricks and soft toys, fostering their curiosity and co-ordination skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's friendly approach, with equal concern for children in her care, helps them to feel valued. Children benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding to their changing level of development. The childminder actively seeks parent's wishes regarding the care of their children and ensures these are respected, providing consistency between childminding and home life. Observations of the children's progress and daily events are shared with parents, ensuring they are kept fully up to date with all aspects of their child's care. Clearly written contracts are provided for parents at the start of the arrangement and parents know they can approach their childminder if they have any concerns or complaints. Daily verbal feedback helps to develop the positive relationship between parents and the childminder.

Children's awareness of the wider society is raised through a range of resources which reflect diversity. The childminder discusses people's similarities and differences with the children to encourage them to develop a positive attitude to others. The childminder is aware that some children have specific needs and would seek advice, if necessary, so that she could meet their needs. All children have access to appropriate toys and resources which promote their learning and development.

Children are happy and behave well as they are occupied and interested in the activities on offer. The childminder manages behaviour in a positive way, giving children praise and encouraging them to share and take turns. Children know what is expected of them and older children learn to be understanding to the curiosity and needs of toddlers who wish to participate in older children's play.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a homely, child-centred environment enabling them to feel secure and comfortable. Space is used effectively to accommodate children's play, meal and rest times,

promoting their well-being. Resources are freely accessible to children enabling them to become independent. The childminder organises her time well and is attentive to children's needs, contributing to their learning and development.

Children benefit from the care of an experienced childminder. She has an understanding of the requirements of the National Standards and is aware of the required training to assist her in her practice. Most of the required documentation is available although some aspects regarding outings using cars and the times in the daily register are not clear.

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 agreed to update her first aid qualification in line with the requirements under the National Standards. As a result, the childminder completed training which ensures that she has the latest knowledge and skills to treat children in the event of an accident.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure times of children's arrival and departure are recorded clearly
- review childcare records and obtain permission from parents to take children out in the car
- update guidance on procedures for safeguarding children

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