

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124794
Inspection date	19 November 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?

The childminder was registered in 1969. She lives with her family, mother and niece in Old Coulsdon, Surrey which comes under the London Borough of Croydon.

The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding purposes with toilet facilities on the first floor. The childminder has two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children in the morning and two children after school.

The childminder takes and collects from local schools, attends local childcare groups and takes children to parks and places of interest.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from the spread of infection and disease. They are learning the importance of good hygiene procedures through observation, daily routines, and discussion with the childminder. For example, she talks to them about why personal hygiene is important and why she maintains a clean home for everyone to stay healthy. Children's welfare is further protected because the childminder uses her qualification in first aid effectively and has written consent to seek emergency treatment. There are agreed procedures in place to administer medication, however, there is no prior written consent from parents to sanction this, which is a breach of regulation.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle when using outside resources whilst playing in the garden, also when they visit leisure centres. Here, they have fun extending their physical skills in a safe and child-friendly environment.

Children receive a balanced diet. Daily menus include hot meals such as shepherd's pie for the main course followed by fresh fruit. Children attending after school enjoy light snacks of sandwiches to sustain them before going home. Drinks are available throughout the day, with younger children having their beaker of water or blackcurrant to hand. Children are learning about the importance of eating healthy foods through discussion and provision of snacks. All dietary needs are met because they are recorded and respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are settled and relaxed in a comfortable home which is warm, light and well ventilated where they have ample space to play and move around. Children extend their play into a secure garden which has suitable outdoor and imaginative play equipment. There are areas of shade which keep children out of fierce sunlight during hot weather.

Children have all the facilities they need to be comfortable during their time in the setting. The childminder has carefully arranged her home to maximise play space and keep children safe. Careful presentation and storage of resources enables children to make decisions by selecting the toys or activities of their choice. They have comfortable sofas to rest and relax on and suitable sleeping arrangements.

The children's safety is high on the agenda. Careful risk assessment and planning ensures potential accidents in the home and on outings are minimised. For example, all harmful substances are inaccessible to children and fire safety strategies and procedures are in place. Children are learning the childminder's rules about how to stay safe when on outings. They know they must hold hands, look and listen when crossing roads which heightens their awareness of road safety.

Children's safety and welfare is protected. The childminder understands her duty as a professional to safeguard children. She has a good working knowledge of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the referral procedures. Children are well supervised at all times. The childminder takes any action necessary to promote and maintain the safety and welfare of children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are warmly greeted and welcomed into a comfortable home. The childminder handles the children with great care and respect, listening to them and responding to their requests. Children feel special which promotes their sense of uniqueness and increases early their confidence. This is further supported because children select from a good range of toys and equipment which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Young children enjoy exploring the brightly coloured interactive toys, learning about different shapes using shape sorters and inset puzzles. Older children have board games and craft resources to entertain them when they arrive from school. Presentation of resources is carefully considered and at child height. Children access these with ease which encourages them to think for themselves and make decisions.

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Children benefit because the childminder takes them on outings to parks and leisure centres where they learn and engage in other activities outside the home. This gives them an understanding of the wider world; they make friends with other children which increases their social awareness and communication skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about the wider world by visiting other childcare facilities and by accessing some resources that promote diversity. The childminder is sensitive to children's individual needs and her experience with working with children with disabilities gives her skills to ensure that all children are included. The childminder is able to work with parents and outside agencies to maximise children's development and potential.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's home where they learn to play together and share their toys. The childminder is a good role model and children respond to her kind, sensitive attitude to children's needs. As a result children learn to listen and act in an appropriate way.

Children benefit from the friendly partnership the childminder has with parents and carers. Together they discuss the children's individual needs, drawing up contracts and record forms, although children's languages and cultures are not formally written on these. Parents receive daily verbal feedback which helps with children's continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is suitably qualified and experienced and has a current paediatric first aid qualification. She is prepared to pursue ongoing training where it may enhance her provision. She demonstrates great care and respect for the children throughout the day as she handles and interacts with them. This ensures children are safe, well cared for and feel secure and settled while in her care. All household members have suitable clearance. Children are protected from un-vetted people by vigilant supervision at all times.

Children benefit from the childminder's organisational skills. They enjoy the interesting activities and outside visits which she arranges for them. Registers are up to date showing actual times

of arrival and departure. Children receive optimum time, space and care because the childminder organises her diary to ensure ratios are maintained.

Most documentation is detailed and in place, however the childminder was unaware of the need to obtain prior written consent for administration of medication. Confidentiality is maintained with keeping children's records although some aspects are not fully recorded. Records are easily accessed and readily available for inspection at any time. The childminder displays her registration certificate during childminding sessions.

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 ensure that the daily record of children's attendance include the times of arrival and departure and to improve resources that reflect positive images of cultures. As a result the childminder now maintains a correct record of children's attendance which is now in line with the regulations. She also has some resources that reflect diversity which gives children an early awareness of different cultures and customs.

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):

- obtain prior written consent from parents to administer medication to children
- update children's records to include different cultures and languages spoken at home

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