

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124818
Inspection date	12 December 2007
Inspector	Sandra Patricia Jeffrey

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 1985, she lives with her husband and two children aged 19 years and four and a half years.

They live in a four bedroom house in Shirley, close to bus routes and the tram link. The downstairs of the home with the exception of the lounge, is used for childminding purposes. An upstairs bedroom is used for sleeping purposes. Toilet and hand washing facilities are located on the ground floor. There is a large, well equipped and fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for no more than four children aged under 8 years at any one time. At the time of the inspection there were two children on roll, and two children were present during the inspection visit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming home environment. They learn the importance of good personal hygiene through effective daily routines, such as washing their hands before and after meals and after using the toilet.

The childminder has clear and effective policies in relation to caring for sick children and acts in the children's best interests if they are ill. The procedures in place for administering medication to children are generally effective. Although, written parental permission to administer medication to children is required prior to any medication being administered, to ensure children's health and welfare are safeguarded.

The childminder can respond promptly to minor accidents or injuries because she has an up to date first aid certificate and has obtained written parental permission in relation to emergency treatment. The childminder is aware of the need to report any serious accidents to Ofsted and has ensured that this requirement has been met as necessary. This safeguards children's health and safety. The dressings in one of the first aid boxes however, need to be replenished and changed regularly as they are currently not fully sufficient or suitable for use in some cases.

There are clear and effective policies in relation to the family pets. Minded children have limited contact with the dog who is mainly restricted to the lounge. This promotes children's health and safety.

The children enjoy a range of physical activities each week, which includes attending local toddler groups, a local 1 o'clock club and parks. The childminder described a good understanding of the benefits of visiting other environments with the minded children to broaden their experiences and to ensure younger children's physical developmental skills are encouraged.

Children enjoy varied healthy snacks including fresh and dry fruit and rice cakes. This helps children recognise foods that are good for them and helps them develop healthy eating habits. The childminder respects parental wishes and has a good understanding of individual dietary requirements; this ensures food meets the children's individual dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a welcoming and well-organised environment. This allows them to move around and play safely. They have a good range of suitable toys and resources that are made accessible to them in the well equipped playroom. This helps to make children feel at home in the setting and encourages them to make choices and decisions for themselves. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety, when they are reminded to be careful on the roller skates, so they do not fall over, for example. This promotes their own awareness of safety issues.

Children can play safely in the childminder's home because she carries out regular risk assessments and the safety of the children is her main concern. For example, children cannot gain access to electrical sockets because these are covered when not in use. Safety gates are in place to prevent children's access to restricted areas, for example, at the foot of the stairs.

Children are also kept safe by the effective fire safety precautions that the childminder has ensured are in place, incorporating regular emergency evacuation practises. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and knows how to proceed if she has concerns about a child in her care in line with the latest government guidance. This supports children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children make themselves at home and have a warm and secure relationship with the childminder. Children receive lots of affection from the childminder and respond well to the attention given to them. Children are happy and confident in the childminder's home. The childminder ensures she has good knowledge of the children she cares for, which enables children to feel secure and comfortable.

Children enjoy a good range of activities that are stimulating and well balanced for all ages. Children are interested in the activities available and spend time concentrating on self-chosen activities such as playing with the dolls and buggies. Planned weekly activities include cooking, art and craft, making pasta necklaces, playing with moon sand, to name a few.

Children benefit from playing in an environment where bright displays of posters, photographs and samples of children's artwork in the playroom make a welcoming environment for the children. Children also benefit from weekly trips to various toddler groups, other childminders' homes and other places of interest. A varied balance of indoor and outdoor activities helps children to make progress in their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the home. The childminder values each child as an individual and makes sure she finds out about their needs, likes and interests before they start. They receive praise and encouragement to promote their self-esteem. This contributes to the children's sense of well-being. The children have access to a range of toys and resources that reflect people from different backgrounds and with different beliefs.

Young children are beginning to learn right from wrong and to share and take turns. The childminder has not cared for minded children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, but displayed a positive attitude to caring for such children.

The partnership with parents and carers is good. Regular informal discussions with parents and the use of note in the bag, ensures an effective two way flow of communication and continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has organised her whole home to ensure that children are comfortable and have ample space to play, rest and eat. Young children benefit from a well-organised routine where they receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident. The day is

well-planned allowing children time for quiet and active play. This helps children to make the most of the play and learning opportunities provided.

All mandatory records are in place, confidential and generally well maintained. All of the children's records are up to date, include the necessary details and are stored in a way which promotes confidentiality. The childminder treats all information relating to the children and their families in a sensitive manner. This ensures the safe and effective organisation of the setting in order to promote children's welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the previous inspection, two recommendations were set in relation to improving the service that is provided. One related to devising a sick policy and the second related to improving the record of children's attendance. The childminder has ensured that both these areas for improvement have been addressed and now has the required policy and documentation in place. This improves the effectiveness of the organisation of the setting.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children
- ensure the contents of the first aid box are checked frequently and replaced as necessary

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