

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139606
Inspection date	15 January 2008
Inspector	Lindsay Ann Farenden

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 1992. She lives with her husband, one adult child and two children aged 10 and 14 years in Sutton, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have one pet guinea pig and turtles.

The childminder is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five years on a full time basis. She takes children to the local park and toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in very clean and well managed surroundings. The childminder ensures that a high standard of hygiene is maintained in all areas of her home. She gives children good support to help them develop personal hygiene routines, as she helps them to wash their hands after toileting and before meals and after playing in the garden. The childminder herself carries

out good hygiene procedures, such as cleaning surfaces with anti-bacterial spray and washing her hands after nappy changing.

Fresh drinks are available in suitable containers and children can help themselves to them, whenever they want to, as these are kept within their reach. This prevents children becoming thirsty or dehydrated. The childminder provides suitable storage of foods provided by parents to prevent spoiling. Children thoroughly enjoy their fruit snacks, which helps them to develop healthy eating habits from a young age. The childminder finds out about any specific dietary needs of each child, from the parents and takes these into consideration when providing any foods herself.

Children have opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities that develop their physical skills. During the summer they play with a range of play equipment in the garden. The childminder regularly takes them for walks and they enjoy visiting local parks where they can run around and use large apparatus. This ensures they receive plenty of fresh air and contributes to a healthy lifestyle.

The childminder is able to respond to minor injuries because she has a suitably stocked first aid box and holds a current first aid certificate. To safeguard children in the event of a serious accident the childminder has obtained parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment. Documentation is in place to record accidents and the childminder is aware of obtaining written parental consent to administer medication, to prevent any overdoses. The childminder informs parents that she does not care for children when they are unwell, to prevent the spread of infectious illnesses.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to suitable areas safely because the childminder has taken good precautions to minimise the risk of accidents. For example, safety gates are in place to prevent access to the kitchen and the stairs and any hazardous items in the kitchen have been made inaccessible to them. There is a fire blanket in the kitchen and working smoke alarms are fitted appropriately on each floor of the house. The childminder has devised a written fire evacuation plan, which she practises with the children to enable them to learn how to leave the premises in an emergency.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of what action to take to if she has concerns about the safety of a child. This protects children's safety and welfare.

The risks to children outside of the home are reduced because the childminder is conscientious about ensuring they are safe on outings. For example, children wear appropriate restraints in the buggy and when walking younger children wear wrist straps. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder uses pedestrian crossings whenever possible and teaches children to always look both ways before crossing.

Children make choices from a good range of toys, which the childminder ensures are safe and suitable for their age and stage of development. They are very well supervised, due to the organisation of the childminder and layout of the ground floor area of the house.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled within the homely environment, in which they freely choose from a wide range of stimulating toys, which they like playing with. They develop their fine motor skills, as they fix construction resources together, such as Duplo and stickle bricks. Children use their imagination well on first hand experiences, as they push dolls around in buggies, sit on a child size chair, watch television for a short time and look at books. They enjoy playing with cars and trains. Children's creativity is developed through a wide range of activities, such as play dough, painting, chalking, colouring, sand and water play.

The children respond well to the childminder's positive interaction with them; she helps them to learn through play and routines, such as talking to them about the different colour toys they are using and the numbers on front doors, when on outings.

Children's interest in books is enhanced as they have access to them at all times and love having stories read to them on a spontaneous basis. They also like visiting the library for story time. Children's social skills are encouraged as they are regularly taken to toddler groups, where they meet other children and access further activities and enjoy singing sessions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel valued and are respected as individuals, as the childminder has a meeting with the parents before their child starts to find out about their needs and routines. The childminder implements a gradual settling in time for new children, which helps them to get to know her and use to separating from their parents. The childminder welcomes parents into the house to inform them about their child's day with her on a daily basis. The childminder's policies and procedures are shared with the parents, which includes how to make a complaint.

Children have opportunities to learn about their local community through regular outings to young children's facilities and parks. Children develop an awareness of diversity through accessing a good range of books and toys portraying positive images of race, culture and disability. The children's knowledge of different cultural celebrations and festivals, though, is not extended through activities.

The childminder is a good role model and talks to children in a kind and gentle manner. Children behave well and this is enhanced as the childminder ensures they are busily engaged in activities throughout the day. She talks positively about the children in front of them and gives them lots of praise. This helps them to feel good about themselves and develops their self-confidence.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel relaxed and at ease within the childminder's home; she organises her space well, so children have plenty of space to play. She dedicates her time around the children when they are present and provides them with opportunities to socialise with other children on outings, and enjoy free play in her home.

All regulatory documentation is in place, which includes written policies for the safe and effective management of the children, in order to promote their welfare. The childminder makes good

use of contracts to invite discussions with parents about their individual needs. The childminder's registration certificate is displayed for parents to view at all times. The setting meets the needs of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has enhanced children's safety as she has put a gate across the lounge door, which prevents them being able to access the stairs. She has reviewed her documentation, which now includes parents' written permission for her to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, which further supports children's health.

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):

- develop children's knowledge of different cultural celebrations and festivals through a range of activities

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