

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	160895
Inspection date	10 March 2008
Inspector	Christine Stimson

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 2001. She lives with her husband and two daughters, aged 17 and 10, in New Malden, Surrey. Her house is within walking distance of schools, shops and parks. All areas of the property can be used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time, and is currently minding three children on a part-time basis. The childminder attends local toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The risk of cross infection is minimised as good hygiene practices are in place. For example, the childminder washes her hands and the child's hands after nappy changing. When children wash their own hands, they use paper towel to dry them. Children receive appropriate attention following accidents as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and keeps a well stocked

first aid box to hand. All accidents are recorded and shared with parents on the day, enabling them to monitor any further symptoms. Written permission from parents to take children to hospital in an emergency is in place should children need professional medical assistance.

Parents are asked to give written consent to administer medication. The childminder keeps a written record of times and doses, which parents sign at the end of each day. The childminder does not have a sick child policy to share with parents, although this is discussed with them when they first leave their child in her care.

The childminder is flexible about preparing food for children. She provides two of the children in her care with all their meals, which are home cooked, healthy and nutritious. Food which parents supply is stored and re-heated appropriately. The childminder prepares food in a clean kitchen and has undertaken a food hygiene course to raise her awareness of good practice. Children do not become thirsty as they have access to drinks at all times.

Children participate in a variety of activities which enable them to develop their physical skills. Babies are urged to crawl by the childminder, with some toys put just out of reach to challenge them in this task. Toddlers practise their skills at parent and toddler groups, using sit and ride cars and tricycles; at soft play centres, where they climb, slither and crawl; and in the childminder's garden, where they run off energy and use swings and slides. Regular walks and outings to parks and farms ensure children have plenty of fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home that is clean and well maintained. A dedicated playroom, linked to a conservatory and the main lounge, enables children to enjoy quiet, active and messy play. The house is of an adequate temperature, well lit and ventilated, with a safe and secure garden for outside activities.

There are enough resources to satisfy children of all ages and stages of development. These are kept in boxes and net baskets at child level so they can self-select. On the shelves, there are construction kits, board games and puzzles for older children. The toys are maintained in very good condition by the childminder, who regularly checks them for damage and cleanliness and puts some of them through the washing machine to ensure they are thoroughly clean for children to play with. The childminder has a range of equipment to care for young children, such as buggies, a travel cot, car seats and a small table and chairs.

The childminder has undertaken a visual risk assessment on her home and minimised any potential hazards. For example, child locks are fitted to cupboards containing dangerous substances and sockets are either inaccessible or have covers and plugs fitted. The childminder only uses the upstairs part of her home for children to rest in a travel cot and has all the other facilities needed to care for children at ground level. This means children can move around the house safely and freely. The childminder tests her smoke alarms every two weeks and has devised a written evacuation procedure which is practised regularly. This ensures children know how to leave the premises quickly and safely in an emergency.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and has undertaken training in this area. Referral procedures are in place and any existing injuries children attend with are recorded. This supports children's well-being and demonstrates the childminder's commitment to protecting children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and calm in the care of the childminder, who ensures she meets their individual needs. Babies are provided with a selection of toys that engage them, whilst older children self-select items from the playroom, making choices in their play. The childminder joins in with children's play, which promotes good relationships. For example, the childminder sits a child on her lap and sings to him, bouncing him as she does this. At the end of the song, the child carries on bouncing, indicating the desire for more. Very good relationships exist between the childminder and the children she cares for. She devotes her time to them and is always available to support their play.

There is no written list of activities to show parents, but the childminder does talk to parents about the type of activities children will be doing whilst in her care. She has a regular routine of visiting toddler groups and parks, but tends to plan each day as it comes depending on the weather and children's preferences and routines. The childminder provides indoor activities such as art and crafts, musical instruments, play dough, stories and cookery and has equipment in the garden to encourage children's physical skills. Outings to groups, farms, story time at the library, soft play centres and river walks are fitted into the childminder's week. These activities encourage children to make all round progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children find out about their local environment as they are taken out by the childminder to various venues throughout the week, where they learn about the diversity of society. Within the childminder's home, they have access to a variety of toys and books that reflect a positive awareness of other cultures. However, there is a lack of resources that show positive images of people with disabilities.

The childminder has established good relationships with parents. This is reflected in the recent questionnaire completed by parents, showing they feel the childminder provides very good care for their children. The questionnaire helps the childminder assess her service. Parents receive a prospectus when they first make enquiries about the childminder caring for their children. This provides information about the type of activities children will be involved in, contractual details and information about the childminder's own family. However, there is no information about the regulator or how to make a complaint.

Children learn about good behaviour, as the childminder sets a good example. If children show inappropriate behaviour, the childminder gets down to their eye level to talk to them about this, encouraging them to understand right from wrong. The childminder encourages children to develop a positive approach to helping others by giving them small tasks, such as tidying the toys away and trying to put on outdoor clothing. She offers children praise when they have achieved something, which boosts their self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All the legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. However, the childminder has not devised a sick child policy or a complaints procedure to share with parents. Additional consents have been sought with regard

to car use, emergency medical attention and outings. Ofsted has been notified of all members of the household over 16 years of age and checks have been carried out to ensure their suitability to be in the vicinity of young children.

The childminder is committed to improving her childcare practice and embraces training opportunities. She has completed courses related to the Birth to three matters framework, child protection, first aid and basic food hygiene. Children feel comfortable in a well organised home, where they can move safely and play with suitable toys. However, the number of resources that reflect disability needs to be increased. Overall, 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 provide an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. Since then the childminder has increased the resources that represent various cultures by providing children with play figures, dolls, books, toy food and cooking implements. However, there are still no resources showing positive images of people with disabilities and this remains a recommendation for the purpose of this inspection.

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):

- devise a sick child policy that includes procedures for when children are taken ill whilst in your care.
- increase resources that reflect positive images of disability
- devise a complaints procedure to share with parents.

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