

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	403919
Inspection date	30 October 2007
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 2001. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one child in Cheam Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and the bathroom/toilet on the first floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have one pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under eight years on a part time basis. The childminder also cares for children over eight years.

The childminder walks to local schools take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to various parks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in very clean home where they learn good hygiene routines, because the childminder gently reminds them to wash their hands when necessary, for example, after using the toilet and after stroking the dog. The children also have constant access to tissues and wet wipes to use when required. Each child is provided with their own towel and flannel, which prevents cross contamination.

The childminder provides a snack of fruit for children when they return from school and this sustains them until their parents arrive to collect them. Children also enjoy healthy snacks at their birthday parties. These include vegetable sticks, dips and salads. Children are provided with a choice of drinks and the childminder takes drinking water with her when they visit the park. This ensures children do not get thirsty or dehydrated.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is well stocked. She also takes a small first aid bag with her on outings. This means she is able to attend to minor injuries that may occur. Parents provide appropriate consents in relation to emergency medical treatment. This means children are safeguarded in the event of a serious accident. The childminder keeps a record of any accidents and medication administered. For continuity of care, these are shared with parents. The sick children's policy informs parents their child should not attend if they are ill, which prevents the spread of contagious illness.

Children are provided with a wide range of activities that contribute to their health and physical development. They play on slides and wheeled toys in the garden. They visit adventure play grounds and parks where they have lots of opportunities to jump, climb and learn how they can use their bodies in variety of ways. They enjoy taking the dog for walks and play a wide range of outdoor ball games. This contributes to children developing a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move around the home safely because the childminder has taken good precautions to ensure there are no hazards to them when they are present. For example, there is a safety gate in place to prevent access to the stairs and dangerous items in cupboards have child locks fitted. Children are also protected outside of the home, because the childminder ensures they sit in car seats for their age and size, holds their hands when walking and explains to them how to cross the road safely.

Children are safeguarded by suitable fire equipment fitted in the home, but one of the smoke alarms is not in working order. Children practise the written fire evacuation procedures, which ensures they learn to leave the home quickly in an emergency situation.

Children are well supervised because the childminder is able to observe and hear them at all times in the areas of the home used for childminding. Children have access to an excellent range of clean, quality play resources, which the childminder makes sure are safe for their age and stage of development.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare because she has a child protection policy which she shares with parents and has a sound knowledge of child abuse. She has the

local authority child protection guidelines and is aware of procedures to take if she had concerns about a child's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are relaxed and settled in the childminder's home. They play well together taking turns as they enjoy card and board games and making up their own games in the garden. The childminder is caring and friendly towards the children who are very comfortable in her presence.

Children are able to develop their imaginations as they are able to access a good range of dressing up clothes and play foods. They have lots of opportunities to develop their creativity as they access colouring, painting and a wide range of craft resources. Children enjoy having their face painted by the childminder. Children develop an interest in books, as they are always available in the childminder's home and visit the library to look at books and listen to story time.

Children are taken on many outings which contribute greatly to their enjoyment and learning. They visit museums and develop their knowledge as they complete worksheets about their experiences there. They visit farms and zoos, where they are able to see real animals. On occasions they visit the seaside and get pleasure from having a picnic on the beach and paddling in the sea.

Through discussion the childminder explained that when she cares for younger children she takes them to a toddler group where they socialise with other children, play with sand and water and join in music sessions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children settle well because the childminder finds out from the parents their individual needs and asks the children about what sort of activities that they enjoy doing. Parents are provided with verbal feedback each day, which informs them of activities their children have been involved in and their general wellbeing. The childminder has devised a portfolio about the service she provides, which includes policies and training courses she has attended, which is shared with parents. They are informed about how to make a complaint through a written policy.

Children learn about their local community through outings to parks, facilities for children, such as farms and occasionally visiting a café run by people who have disabilities. They access to a good range of toys and books reflecting positive images of diversity of culture and race and children are sometimes provided with resources portraying disability from the toy library.

Children behave well and are encouraged to share and take turns. The childminder helps children to respect each other by explaining to them the importance of treating others, how they would like to be treated themselves. The childminder's friendly manner provides a good role model for children. The childminder helps children to share and take turns and her use of praise contributes to children's high levels of self esteem and confidence.

There are currently no children attending with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Through discussion the childminder demonstrated a great enthusiasm to care for a child with special

needs. She has willingness to work to work with parents and other professionals to meet the child's needs and help them reach their full potential.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and secure in the childminder's home and benefit from the childminder's organisation of space and the play provision to meets their needs.

Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare and the safety of the children. The use of contracts invites discussions with parents about children's individual needs. The childminder has in place all the required records and documentation, which are well presented and kept in a confidential manner. The childminder displays her registration certificate prominently for parents to view. The childminder has a Level 3 qualification in childminding practice and children benefit from her enthusiasm and knowledge of child care. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has developed a portfolio of the childminding service she provides for children and shares this with parents.

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

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):

- maintain the smoke alarms in working order
- extend the range of play resources reflecting positive images of disability

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