

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY218238
Inspection date	14 January 2008
Inspector	Debbie Molly O'Callaghan
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 outstanding. 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 children aged 12 and 11 in Caterham, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor in the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four minded children at any one time and is currently minding two children. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is willing to attend local toddler groups, libraries, parks and other child centred amenities.

The childminder supports children for whom English is an additional language. Spanish, Dutch and English are freely spoken. The childminder is a member of the Surrey County Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in very clean and well maintained home. The childminder organises space with the needs of children clearly in mind and ensures they have a wide range of opportunities for physical play both in and outside the home.

She has a thorough understanding of how to promote children's health. She actively promotes good hygiene with children and strongly encourages their independence skills in hand washing.

The childminder responds to children's dietary needs well. Although parents provide all meals and snacks she consults closely with parents about individual needs and takes good account of their wishes. She understands the benefits of healthy eating and positively promotes this with children through planned activities and discussions around which foods are good for you. Children can access drinks easily throughout the day, this ensures they do not become thirsty or dehydrated.

Children's physical development is encouraged with walking to and from school and play opportunities within the garden. The childminder also gives them opportunity to rest according to their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

The home is very safe and well maintained, children have use of the playroom which is child orientated with small table and chairs and a very good range of accessible play materials and resources. All equipment is in excellent condition, safe and age appropriate.

The childminder has devised a written emergency escape plan and emergency exits are clearly marked. She has obtained written consent for all aspects of care and ensures medication and accidents are clearly recorded. This safeguards children's welfare.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe as the childminder uses opportunities when walking to and from school to remind children about road safety and talking to strangers.

The childminder has very good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures and is well aware of her responsibility to protect the children in her care. She has made available a written procedure to parents so they are aware of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder creates a very warm and welcoming atmosphere in the family home. Children are happy, confident and extremely well settled and benefit from the warm and motivated approach of the childminder.

Children are provided with a very good range of early learning experiences through play. Activities are well balanced and include opportunities for them to socialise with others at Spanish club and toddler groups. Children are positively encouraged to use their imagination and explore their creativity and are encouraged to share their views about the types of activities they like

to do. Children enjoy art and craft making flowers to put in a flower press, drawing pictures, making puzzles and doing their homework. The children benefit from the childminder taking them to after school activities.

The childminder has an excellent variety of play materials all accessible in boxes and on shelves. The play room is divided and clearly labelled for areas of development, such as knowledge and understanding and problem solving. Children are helped with their homework and children and childminder are very enthusiastic about the achievements they are making at school, the childminder gives lots of praise and cuddles when a child tells her she has been put in a higher band for her reading. This raises children's self esteem.

The childminder spends lots of time with the children helping them to progress in all areas of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a very good understanding and positive attitude to equal opportunities. Children are beginning to learn about diversity through the introduction of toys and resources that reflect positive images. She ensures children have equal access to all activities and helps children develop a positive attitude towards others. This is reinforced by the addition of well planned activities raising children's awareness of different cultures and festivals such as Hanukah, Chinese new year, number and letter charts in Spanish and she has made a welcome poster in different languages which is displayed in the hallway.

Children behave exceptionally well, they are learning to share and play extremely well together. Children are well aware of daily routines and of what is expected of them.

Children respect each other and learn to manage their own behaviour. This is encouraged by the childminder who uses positive and effective strategies to manage behaviour.

Parents are kept very well informed, the notice board in the hallway has information on all forthcoming events and information relevant to the care of their child. Parents are given time at the end of the day to exchange information about their children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and very settled within the childminder's environment. They benefit from a highly committed and enthusiastic childminder, which enhances their care and development.

The childminder is committed to continuous improvement and development, she attends regular training and meetings to ensure the high quality of her provision is maintained.

Written clear and precise policies and procedures cover all aspects of practice and are consistently applied and fully shared with parents so there is a supportive working partnership. All required regulatory documentation is very well recorded and maintained. This ensures the quality of care for each child is retained to a high standard and in line with parents' wishes and feelings.

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 construct and use a method and process for ensuring parental consents are gained. The childminder has written consent from parents for all aspects of care. This ensures children's welfare is protected and they are cared for according to parents' wishes.

She was also asked to ensure children have access to an expanded range of toys and resources that reflect positive images for children of culture/ethnicity and disability. The childminder has a very good range of toys and resources that reflect positive images, this is enhanced by well planned activities. This ensures children are learning about differing cultures and diversity.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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