

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY235515
Inspection date	21 February 2008
Inspector	Carol Newman
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Epsom in Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding nine children, all of whom attend on a part time basis.

The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to local facilities, such as the library, soft play and the park.

The childminder is a member of Surrey Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Excellent daily routines and explanations help children understand that washing hands after visiting the toilet reduces the risk of passing on germs. Children are very well protected from cross infection as they recognise and use their individual towels, embroidered with their initial, for hand washing.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication, which ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and the first aid box is very well stocked. This means she can give appropriate care if there is an accident. The childminder asks for additional information when she requests written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment. This ensures she is able to effectively meet the children's needs whilst following parents' wishes.

Children enjoy a superb range of varied and nutritious meals which meet special dietary requirements and ensure children remain healthy. Fresh drinks are available at all times and children confidently help themselves. This encourages children to independently address their personal needs.

Children engage in a first rate range of physical activities that help keep them healthy, such as riding bicycles in the garden, soft play, trips to the park and farm and regular walks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

This childminding provision is beautifully organised for the children's most advantageous benefit. The environment is made extremely welcoming for the children. Photographs of past and present minded children and children's art work, displayed in clip frames, show that all children and their efforts are celebrated and acknowledged. Children have easy and safe access to an excellent range of toys and resources that are stimulating and suitable for children's stages of development.

The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. Children practise the emergency evacuation procedure on a monthly basis and discuss it with the childminder as a part of their play. Children are reminded to hold hands when on outings and a clear set of house rules contribute to the children's well-being. The childminder carries out regular written risk assessments and takes steps to ensure children are very well protected from any hazards. There are sufficient cots and beds that allow children to rest and sleep in comfort and safety.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of safeguarding children issues and knows what action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care. This ensures she quickly recognises when a child is in danger and can act in the child's best interest. She regularly attends additional training in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Babies and young children gain much from being together. They learn to communicate and develop good relationships. The childminder plans her day exceptionally well to ensure children have a very good balance of adult and child initiated activities, indoors and outdoors. Children smile and laugh as they are completely engrossed in activities such as choosing different animals from the finger puppets, whilst singing "Old MacDonald". The childminder is brilliantly skilled at effectively sharing her time between the children to make them feel fully included.

Children experiment with musical instruments and the childminder increases their vocabulary by using and explaining new words, as the children play. As children build the train track the childminder talks about "shorter", "curvy bits", and "over and under". She explains to the children that they play the piano using the "keys".

Children play and learn contentedly and the childminder takes steps to ensure they feel secure in her home. For example, the childminder reads stories to the children that illustrate why strangers may be visiting the setting.

The childminder uses the 'Birth to three matters framework' to plan suitable activities for the youngest children. She observes the children's play and records their achievements in their profiles. This means she can identify the next steps in each child's learning and include these in future planning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children become aware of their own and other cultures through a range of resources and planned activities and as they celebrate a variety of festivals. The childminder encourages all children to participate in the activities. This ensures children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential.

The childminder has a wealth of experience of working with children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. All children progress well due to her consistent encouragement and support. She willingly discusses any concerns with parents to ensure the children's needs are met.

Excellent strategies, according to the age and stage of development, help children understand right from wrong. Children learn important social skills such as sharing and listening to each other and they treat each other kindly.

Comprehensive care diaries for all children ensure continuity of care. The childminder develops friendly, but business like, relationships with parents and respects parents' wishes at all times. Parents provide appropriate and relevant information about their children to the childminder. This helps to ensure children receive individual care and attention.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

This childminder offers excellent, superbly organised care for all minded children. Written policies and procedures support the childminder in her daily activities. This ensures children's

needs are effectively met and all relevant information is shared with parents. A superb two-way flow of information ensures continuity of care.

The childminder uses her time well and her flexible approach allows children the opportunity to organise and pursue their own games. The childminder continuously evaluates her provision and seeks further training when necessary, to develop the terrific quality of care she offers.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to ensure that fire blankets are easily accessible in the kitchen and installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The fire blankets are now appropriately installed in the kitchen. This means they are easily accessible in the event of fire.

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 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