

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY251940
Inspection date	12 March 2008
Inspector	Teresa Elkington

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 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged five and 19 months in Horley, Surrey. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five, who attends on a part time basis and two children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group. The childminder is a member of a local childminder support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy and thrive in the setting because the childminder follows effective hygiene procedures, such as encouraging the children to clean their hands at appropriate times. There are good levels of hygiene throughout the home and children have space to play in a clean and

uncluttered environment. Children have independent access to appropriate toilet facilities, ensuring privacy is respected. The childminder's clear understanding of the required procedures regarding accidents and the administration of medication, protects children in her care. She ensures that parents are kept fully informed at all times, as they are required to sign consent forms and acknowledge entries made in the documentation that is in place. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, so is able to act in the best interests of the children in the event of an emergency.

The childminder works effectively with parents to meet children's individual health and dietary needs. She agrees arrangements with parents for providing food and drink. Children benefit from healthy snacks and nutritious balanced meals, which include a range of fresh fruit options. Children have ready access to drinking water and low sugar fruit juices to enable them to respond to their bodily needs independently.

Children are encouraged to develop their understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. They have regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air and participate in physical activities which help to develop their muscle tone and physical skills. They regularly walk to and from school, enjoy nature walks, play games in the garden and regularly make visits to the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment. The use of risk assessments and well implemented policies and procedures ensure that children are appropriately safeguarded from any hazards within the home. However, hazards within some areas of the garden do not provide a safe outdoor environment for the children. A clear fire evacuation procedure has been established to ensure that children can exit the premises safely in the event of an emergency. The childminder uses every day situations to discuss how to cross the road and why it is important that small pieces of play equipment are kept away from very young children, to ensure that children have an awareness of taking necessary precautions to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Children have access to a wide range of good quality items of play equipment. However, the organisation of these provide limited opportunities for children to access their play materials independently. All resources used by the children are maintained to ensure that they are safe and appropriate for the children to use.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and well promoted due to the childminder's thorough understanding as to her responsibilities in protecting children. This is well supported by the literature and good practices that have been established.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to make themselves at home in the childminder's house, helping them to feel comfortable and very settled. They enjoy a purposeful range of activities that are appropriate to their age and tailored to their individual interests. Children's independence is encouraged as they are invited to choose and make choices as to the activities they wish to involve themselves in. The childminder is very attentive to children's individual and developing needs and interaction with them is good. She is always close at hand to offer support and extend children's learning as they participate in games and undertake new activities.

Children benefit from plenty of discussions with the childminder, who shows an interest in what children have to say; they recall the events of their day at school and they discuss what activities they would like to be undertaken. Meaningful play opportunities are planned to develop children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities. They have regular opportunities to participate in games and creative activities which support and encourage participation and thinking skills, as the childminder is skilful in extending children's learning at every opportunity. For example, counting skills are encouraged as a child counts out the number of beads required to make the picture.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well settled, due to the calm and approachable nature of the childminder, enabling the children to show a true sense of belonging and of feeling part of the family. All individual needs are recognised and planned for accordingly to ensure that all children are included. Children have access to a good range of resources and activities, which helps children to develop a positive attitudes towards their wider world.

Children behave extremely well in the childminder's care as she has a consistent approach to managing their behaviour. Children benefit from the consistent strategies that are adopted by the childminder to help them to develop an understanding of right from wrong. They respond well to the praise and encouragement which is offered to them in recognition of their achievements. They are encouraged to show respect for each other, promoting a harmonious atmosphere.

The childminder knows each child well and works effectively with parents to meet children's individual needs. Children benefit from the friendly and trusting relationship the childminder has with their parents. Parents and carers have access to a range of information on the service the childminder offers, which includes information about Ofsted along with a range of policies and procedures. Information is exchanged on a daily basis through the use of daily diary or verbal exchange which ensures that children's changing needs are highlighted and that achievements are celebrated.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder works from a child friendly home, providing children with a welcoming environment in which to play and learn. She organises her home and the children's day to meet their individual needs and to ensure that they have varied play and learning experiences to support their development. The childminder draws on her knowledge and skills from her training in childcare and is proactive in keeping her knowledge up to date by attending relevant courses in support of her role.

The childminder has written policies and procedures in place which support her work with young children. All of the legally required documentation is available which ensures that children are well protected and cared for. The childminder is organised and maintains an efficient record keeping system which is confidentially stored. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were made; ensure the information regarding the children's individual needs is maintained; ensure written permission is requested from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Positive actions have been taken by the childminder as comprehensive information as to children's individual needs is in place and well maintained through regular reviews. Clear procedure have been established to ensure that parents give written permission for the childminder to obtain medical treatment or advice.

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):

- improve opportunities to enable children to access their play resources independently
- ensure outside play area is free from hazards

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