

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY255930
Inspection date	20 February 2008
Inspector	Marilyn Joy
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 has been registered since March 2003. She lives with her two children aged 13 and 11 in a house situated in a cul-de-sac in Feltham. The premises are close to local amenities with good public transport links. The childminder makes the ground floor of her home available for childminding, along with sleeping facilities upstairs. There is a secure, enclosed rear garden which is easily accessed from the lounge. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of four children under eight years of age. She is currently minding two children under five years plus three children over five years. Children attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted well because the childminder has a clear understanding of the importance of nutrition, fresh air and exercise. Children explore a variety of small and large equipment when playing indoors and outdoors. They use the swings and slides at the park and wheeled toys at toddler group. They develop hand-eye co-ordination when fitting construction pieces together, painting and using cutters with the dough. Healthy snacks of fruit and fresh water are offered daily. Children usually bring their own lunch boxes and these are stored in the fridge to ensure the contents stay cool.

Children's health and dietary requirements are met because the childminder has good systems for gathering information from parents which ensures she has a secure knowledge of individual needs. She is also particularly careful to ensure parent's preferences are respected with any food or treats that she provides. All health documentation in place and most is very well-organised.

Children develop good hygiene routines because the childminder is vigilant in reminding children to wash their hands or to put their hand up if they cough. She also provides an explanation which helps them to understand the reasons why. Effective hygiene practices are observed by children and the childminder throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

A bright, warm and welcoming environment is offered where children's safety is given a strong emphasis. Thorough risk assessments have been conducted and appropriate equipment put in place to reduce the risk of potential hazards. Children are encouraged to learn about keeping themselves safe because the childminder effectively explains the consequences of their actions, for example, what might happen if they climb on the small table. Children quickly learn and respond 'fall'.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues and is aware of what to do if she has any concerns about a child in her care. Clear arrangements are in place for dealing with different emergency situations. An evacuation plan has been prepared and is practised with the children to help them become aware of what they must do. Information is also shared with parents so they are fully aware of the procedures for protecting them from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good opportunities to experience a broad range of activities that they enjoy. They benefit from the childminder's involvement in their play because she communicates effectively with them, encouraging their language and learning well. Children are encouraged to play co-operatively, share and take turns. They are very happy and content, demonstrating a clear sense of belonging in the confident and secure manner in which they interact with the childminder. Children are able to solve problems for themselves because they are given the time and space to do so. When playing with the magnetic trains they were able to work out

how to move the blue engine from the back to the front so that it can pull rather than push the carriages. A clear emphasis is given towards promoting children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children's individual routines are incorporated well into daily activities. They have time for rest, refreshment and active play. They visit the park, learn songs together, cuddle up for stories and engage a wide range of creative activities. Activities are organised well to suit all children's stage of development and provide them with a good variety of experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Building positive relationships and working in partnership with parents is a key strength of the provision. Parents are very complimentary about the care their children receive. They are provided with good range of information. The informative prospectus and policies clearly describe the general routines, activities and procedures the childminder follows. Records are shared with parents and most documentation is maintained confidentially, although when recording situations where more than one child is involved names have been included. Daily diaries and verbal communications ensures parents are fully aware of their children's activities and routines. Parents are encouraged to express their views and the childminder works hard to ensure she is able to respect their wishes in the care she provides. For example, by following cultural, dietary, language and individual preferences. Opportunities to value and promote children's first language are maximised.

Children play sociably together. They learn to take turns and share through the consistent guidance and support from the childminder. She presents a positive role model in her interactions with them and they quickly learn to be kind to each other and use please and thank you. Appropriate arrangements are in place for supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The childminder acknowledges she lacks experience in this area but is happy to attend training to develop her skills in meeting individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are cared for in a well organised and welcoming environment. They benefit from the childminder's experience and her commitment to continual professional development. The childminder has completed an NVQ level three in childcare and attends early years workshops. Documentation is well-organised. All regulatory information is in place and most is maintained in a confidential manner. Space is organised well so that children can move around and be easily supervised in a safe and secure environment. Comprehensive policies and procedures formalises the service provided and provides parents with written information to support discussions with the childminder.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. Although she has not attended a course the childminder has updated herself by obtaining relevant literature from the local authority and details of who she needs to contact should she have any concerns about a child in her care. Children benefit because she is fully aware of the procedures she should follow.

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):

- ensure accidents and incidents are recorded separately for individual children and that confidentiality is maintained.

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