

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY267984
Inspection date	31 January 2008
Inspector	Amanda May
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and eight years, in Knaphill, Woking. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder currently cares for six children and is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder follows effective procedures to protect children from illness and infection. A written policy is in place, which is shared with parents. The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of how best to support children who fall unwell whilst they are in her care, as she

makes them feel warm and comfortable whilst waiting for parents to collect them. This reduces the risk of the spread of illness and infection, and other children who attend the setting are protected as a result.

Children who attend the setting who wear nappies are protected from cross-contamination as the childminder wears gloves and disposes of wrapped nappies immediately. Older children access the toilet independently and are gently reminded to wash their hands. Children have their own colourful flannels to dry their hands on, and use a stool so they can wash their hands without help.

Children learn about good health through a ready access to drinks and nutritious foods. They develop social skills as they eat snacks and meals together at the table, whilst chatting happily with their friends. Some children bring in packed lunches from home which the childminder stores effectively to keep them cool and fresh. Home-cooked meals are provided for some children, who enjoy dinners such as vegetarian shepherds pie. Children benefit from a good range of physical activities that include the use of the garden and regular visits to the local park. Children walk to schools to take and collect their friends, and enjoy trips to parks for picnics in the summer months. This contributes to their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through the childminder's good procedures. They develop their awareness of how to take care of themselves in an emergency as they practise fire drills regularly. Some records are kept of when drills have been practised, although these are not currently evaluated or timed to ensure all children are supported and are developing their understanding. The childminder has arrangements in place with another childminder to go to for safety in an emergency. Details of her emergency contact are also listed in the childminder's car, to ensure that parents can be contacted through her immediately if required.

The premises is welcoming, secure and safe. Stair gates are used in the play room and in the kitchen to ensure children are kept safe and in the childminder's full supervision at all times. Equipment is relevant and appropriate for the children who attend the setting. Older children learn to look after babies and toddlers, as they play with small toys, such as lego, up at the table and out of their reach.

Children are protected through the childminder's understanding of issues surrounding safeguarding children. She has attended relevant training courses to develop and increase her own awareness of potential safety issues, and knows to record any concerns accordingly. Relevant documentation is in place for the childminder to refer to for further support if required and a written policy makes clear to parents her responsibilities in ensuring that children's safety and welfare is protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a range of varied and fun activities which contribute very well to their development. Children concentrate and persist as they cut out shapes from paper to make snow flakes. Children giggle and smile as they unfold them, showing the pattern they have made to their friends. The childminder develops children's self-esteem further as their work is displayed on the window for children to see, which they point out with pride. The childminder includes

outings and activities to toddler groups as well as places such as 'The Lookout' discovery centre. Children enjoy a trip to West Byfleet on the train, looking excitedly out of the window before having a drink and coming home. The childminder includes activities and trips which reflect and embrace children's interests, and toys and resources are chosen with this in mind.

Children can access their own resources independently. The childminder sets up some resources and activities ready for when children arrive at the setting, allowing them to explore and enjoy the activities planned. Children gain high levels of self-esteem and confidence through praise and encouragement. The childminder supports children effectively in their activities, and relationships within the setting are close. Children giggle and laugh with the childminder, telling jokes as they play, demonstrating their security in her care. The childminder has accessed training in the Birth to three matters framework and is aware of the various stages of development. However, she currently lacks confidence in observing children to ensure activities are challenging and appropriate to help each child develop individually.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents and children's individual needs are met through sharing information about their experiences. Children benefit from settling in visits when they first attend the setting, allowing them to feel more secure and at home in the new surroundings. The childminder provides parents with copies of all of her policies to ensure that they feel fully involved in their child's care, and gain a good understanding about all levels of the service offered to parents and children alike. A complaints policy is in place, however this does not currently contain the regulator's current address or provide information for parents about how they can view the complaints log. Diaries are used to give full information about what activities children have enjoyed each day, and parents are encouraged to share information from home in order to promote continuity of care for the child. The childminder does not currently care for any children who have learning difficulties and disabilities. However, she demonstrates a good awareness of how to best support children and knows that some children may develop specific learning needs. The childminder discusses children's progress with parents daily and would be happy to adapt activities to ensure that all children were supported and effectively challenged.

Children develop a good awareness of other people's cultures and beliefs as they celebrate festivals such as Hanukah and make lanterns for Chinese New Year. Toys and resources at the setting are multi-cultural, and the childminder demonstrates her awareness of ensuring children can access a wide range of toys and books which celebrate difference. Children develop an awareness that some people have different needs to them, as they play with small world figures who use wheelchairs and wear glasses. Children as a result, begin to respect other people's differences and show concern for their friends. Behaviour at the setting is very good. Children are the best of friends, and chat and laugh as they play together nicely. The childminder ensures that resources and activities are interesting and challenging and therefore motivate children to discover new things. The childminder uses stickers to encourage good behaviour at the setting, whilst using lots of praise and encouragement as they play.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her time and space well, allowing children to access their own resources and utilise the kitchen and dining area for their play. The childminder has a firm belief in self-development and demonstrates this as she accesses a wide range of training and workshops in areas such as behaviour management, equal opportunities and first aid. The childminder has strong links with other childminders who she meets up with for training and to plan activities for children together. Children, as a result, develop social skills and meet new friends, whilst the childminder enjoys sharing ideas and discussing best practice with other professionals.

The childminder has a wide range of written policies in place, which work well in practice to promote children's welfare. Parents are fully advised of these and documentation is shared effectively. Permission slips are in place for children to enjoy outings and trips and the childminder ensures that all documentation is stored effectively to ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection, the provider was recommended to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, establish effective hand washing procedures, keep a signed, written record of medicines given to children and to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint.

The childminder has implemented these effectively. The childminder demonstrates a secure awareness of issues surrounding safeguarding children, and documents are in place to support the childminder in her knowledge if necessary. Children's health is supported through the provision of individual hand towels for children to use. This reduces the risk of the spread of illness and infection.

Medication is administered effectively to children and the childminder now ensures that parents acknowledge when medication has been given whilst children are in the childminder's care. Finally a complaints procedure has been implemented and is shared with parents. However, this would still benefit from being extended.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- Monitor children's development and provide activities to help children develop, according to their individual learning and developmental needs, in line with the Birth to three matters framework
- evaluate the effect of fire drills on each child, and plan ways in which to further support them in their understanding
- ensure complaints procedure provides the current address of the regulator and explains to parents how they can access complaints log.

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