

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY276906
Inspection date 26 February 2008
Inspector Janet Marie Thouless

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 partner and seven year old son in Carshalton, Surrey. Children have access to all of the home and garden area. The home is easily accessible by public transport and is within walking distance of schools and parks. The family have one cat, a rabbit and a guinea pig.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding seven children under eight on a part time basis.

The childminder is happy to take and collect children from local schools and visit local drop in groups, parks and places of interest. 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 stay healthy and are well protected because the childminder follows effective health and hygiene procedures throughout her daily practice. Children learn the importance of good hygiene practice, for example, washing hands before and after meals, after toilet routines and when stroking the animals. Therefore, children increase their independence and personal care successfully through the good routines.

There are good procedures in place in relation to administering medication safely. The childminder has sought prior written permission from parents, to administer medication, in line with the requirements of the National Standards. Written permission has been sought from parents for the childminder to seek medical advice or treatment and a first aid certificate is maintained.

Children have their health and dietary needs appropriately met because the childminder works closely with their parents. The freshly cooked meals are well planned and prepared to appeal to young children and to suit their individual dietary requirements. Children learn about the importance of healthy eating, as a wide range of fresh fruit and vegetables are included in snacks and meals. Children help themselves to regular drinks of water from individual lidded cups to ensure they remain hydrated throughout the day.

Children benefit from plenty of fresh air and regular physical activity when playing in the garden, on walks and outings. Children have opportunities to use a good range of play equipment in the garden, at local drop in groups and in various parks, developing their co-ordination and gross motor skills effectively.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children flourish and are well cared for in the welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment because the childminder takes positive steps to ensure children's safety. The childminder knows about potential hazards and has a number of safety measures in her house to protect children from harm. These include safety gates, smoke detectors and a fire blanket and young children are securely strapped in to child seats whilst eating at the table to ensure their safety. The childminder has a clear emergency evacuation plan. This means the childminder knows the routes she would use to evacuate her house in an emergency. The childminder maintains an appropriate record of accidents. This ensures parents are informed about their children's health and welfare needs.

Children have access to a broad range of good quality toys and play equipment, which are rotated to provide variety. The effective organisation of toys and play equipment on offer allows children to independently self-select to fully promote their independence in making choices for their own learning.

Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role in safeguarding children. Effective procedures advise parents of their responsibility and the childminder knows how to record and refer any concerns. This ensures the childminder acts in the best interest to safeguard the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are warmly welcomed into a caring and child centred family home. They benefit from the stimulating environment and the good provision of resources, toys and creative activities. The childminder has a very good understanding of the children's individual needs, building warm, caring and positive relationships with them.

Children enjoy imaginative activities which are effectively planned and adapted for the children's stage of development. They enjoy role play exploring the range of cooking utensils available, they confidently build with bricks and practise rolling a soft ball to knock down skittles. They thoroughly enjoy listening to favourite stories, such as, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and the childminder uses a range of props to engage the children and bring the story to life which children confidently identify. Children confidently sing a selection of rhymes and giggle with great delight, in anticipation of being tickled when singing action rhymes.

The childminder recognises the importance of play in children's development. She is confident in her knowledge gained through her childcare qualification, experience of working in childcare and regular attendance at training events. She is fully aware of the differing needs of various age groups and refers to recent publications and childcare literature. The childminder's home provides a happy and homely atmosphere where children are regarded as additional members of the family.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are very well supported because the childminder is fully aware of children's individual needs. Children benefit from the very good partnership the childminder has with their parents and the regular exchange of information. Parents are kept fully informed about their children's care and progress through daily discussions and a daily diary which include care routines and activities participated in.

The childminder establishes clear and realistic boundaries regarding behaviour. She has a consistent approach with the children, who behave well and respond quickly to gentle reminders from her. Children develop high self-esteem and benefit from lots of praise and encouragement from the childminder.

Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest, such as, local drop in groups, parks and organised events. The childminder provides a broad range of resources to promote the children's learning about the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. The childminder has a positive approach to caring for children with a range of different needs and abilities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards her role and is clear about her responsibilities. She demonstrates a sound understanding of the requirements of the National Standards and the childminder is committed to the ongoing improvement of her practice. She is also keen to develop her knowledge and skills further and has made arrangements to attend forthcoming training events.

She organises the daily routine around the children's individual needs. She plans each day to ensure there is sufficient time for play, meals, sleep times and outings. The childminder's clear policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and their ability to make a positive contribution. All of the legally required documentation and records are in place and the childminder knows to ensure accurate records of attendance are maintained. However, the registration certificate is not displayed and the current complaints procedure does not show how any complaint received will be investigated as required.

The childminder's professional approach and regard for the wellbeing of the children in her care ensures the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, three recommendations were made to devise and implement a system to record any incident of physical restraint, ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote disability and establish a written agreement with parents that sets out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the child, activities provided and business arrangements.

The childminder now has an incident book in place and children have access to a wider range of resources that reflect disability. Written agreements are now in place that set out clear expectations of both parties and promote the care and well being of the children.

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

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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 the registration certificate is displayed in a prominent place for parents to view.
- update the complaints procedure in line with current legislation.

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