

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278605
Inspection date	19 March 2008
Inspector	Joanna Scott
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 2004. She lives with her husband in Weybridge, Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding, with sleeping facilities available upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time, and is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends a toddler group, and takes children to parks. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, the Surrey Childminding Association, and the Surrey Childminding Networks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children play in a clean environment. The childminder ensures that the premises is hygienically maintained. She vacuums daily, and uses anti bacterial spray on work surfaces. There is a written sick child policy in place which is shared with parents and helps reduce the spread of illness. The children learn through discussion to wash their hands at key times to

protect their good health, and the childminder ensures that they can access the paper towels in the dispenser to dry their hands. These measures reduce the risk of cross infection.

The childminder has recently updated her first aid certificate which ensures she has the skills to care for children should they be injured or become unwell. Systems are in place to record any medication administered, and accidents. This benefits the children's health and welfare.

The children have daily opportunities to be active. Outside they enjoy playing on trikes and scooters, and inside they love to dance and roll around on the cushioned mat. This develops their control of their bodies. Young children use their fine motor skills and hand to eye co-ordination as they stick feathers and sequins on a picture. The children enjoy a good range of healthy meals provided by the childminder. They are able to choose from a good variety of fresh fruit at snack time, and older children make their own sandwiches at lunch time. This encourages them to eat well. Where parents provide meals the childminder stores and re-heats them suitably. She has attended training in food safety which has raised her understanding of protecting children's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children play in a home where most risks are minimized. The childminder completes a daily check of her home before the children arrive. She uses safety equipment such as socket covers and stair gates to protect children. Sometimes she completes a risk assessment document when she identifies any areas which need addressing and records that they've been resolved, for example, some repairs to a neighbour's fence. The garden is secure to prevent children leaving, however, the garden gate is not additionally secured to prevent unauthorised entry. Some glass wear is stored at low level in the dining room, but children do not have free access to this room. The childminder is very focused on the care of the children, and supervises the children well. Visitors to her home are asked to sign her visitors record, and are fully supervised around the children.

The children are learning about their own safety. The childminder talks to the children about road safety and keeping their seat belts on until she has turned the car engine off. Very young children start to be aware of safety, for example, they gesture to the stair gate to show they understand it must be shut when the childminder brings them downstairs. Sometimes the childminder practises evacuation with the children to help them learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely in an emergency.

The childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding children, and has a clear procedure to follow should she have a concern. She updates her training on a three year basis to ensure she keeps up to date with child protection issues. There are systems in place to record existing injuries should it be necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children enjoy a very good range of activities in and out of the home. The childminder follows the Birth to three matters framework, and uses this to record younger children's development. Some medium term planning is in place, but the childminder uses less formal measures to decide on activities on a day to day basis.

Children experience weekly trips to a toddler group where they mix in larger social groups with other children, and experience activities such as sand and water play. They make regular trips to parks and national trust gardens, and go fruit picking. At home the childminder prepares art and craft for the children to enjoy, for example, a younger child enjoys sticking sequins to a picture under the careful supervision of the childminder. The childminder is very encouraging, and this helps children to enjoy activities. Older children enjoy playing board and card games, cooking, and face painting. The children can access some of the childminder's resources independently. For example, children enjoy playing musical instruments from a selection in a basket, and folding a mat to make a den in the conservatory.

The children's individual routines are taken into account, younger children are able to rest and sleep in line with their home routines.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children's individual needs are met. The childminder liaises closely with parents to find out about their specific needs and routines. Systems are in place for parents to record issues relating to culture, religion and language spoken at home if they choose to. Children play in an environment where the childminder displays pictures of children from around the world, and a map, and ensures resources including books and small world figures reflecting diversity are available. This helps children to be aware of the wider world.

The children behave well. They understand the childminder's house rules which include being kind and sharing. The childminder uses reward systems such as star charts and stickers to encourage wanted behaviour. She is very aware of factors which influence children's behaviour, such as the benefits of having a regular routine and consistent approach, and recognising when children are tired.

The partnership with parents is good. The childminder shares the younger children's development records on a regular basis, and is happy to provide a written daily diary to share information. She has compiled a detailed set of written policies and procedures which are given to parents and which reflect the service she provides. Parents are asked for their view on the provision when the childminder asks them to complete questionnaires.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are happy and settled. The childminder organises her home to ensure that those areas freely used by children are welcoming, safe and suitable for them to be in. The childminder is child focused, and committed to providing a professional service. She has recently joined her local childminding network.

She is proactive in accessing training to develop her skills and knowledge relating to caring for children. She has completed her level three National Vocational Qualification, and continues to attend a wide range of childminding workshops. She is currently reviewing the Early Years Foundation Stage with a view to implementing it later this year.

All records are up to date and stored appropriately. Systems are in place to review contracts and policies and procedures on a regular basis. Required adult to child ratios are maintained,

which ensures children are supported. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection one recommendation was raised. That related to implementing effective hand washing to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder talks to the children about washing their hands at key times and implements regular routines to ensure they do so. Children use individual paper towels to dry their hands which reduces any risk of cross infection.

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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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 any risk assessment of the garden takes full account of unauthorised access through the gate

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