

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY280407
Inspection date	30 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 outstanding. 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 three children, aged 12, 10 and seven, in Knaphill, Woking.

Most of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and makes regular use of the local library.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and there are currently five children on roll. The family have a dog and a cat as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn how to keep fit and stay healthy as they enjoy a wide range of physical activities. These include use of bikes and trikes in the garden and visits to Virginia Water or Lightwater Country Park, where children enjoy climbing and swinging on the play equipment. The

childminder provides many innovative activities to help children develop their understanding of the importance of a healthy and balanced diet. Children make animals out of fruit and enjoy a themed healthy eating day, where they taste a variety of exotic fruits such as pomegranate and mango.

Young children bring in meals from home which the childminder stores effectively in the fridge to ensure they are kept cool and fresh. Older children who attend, enjoy lunches such as cheese on toast or soup, and evening meals like fish with rice or sausage and chips. Children benefit from eating with their friends up at the table, developing their social skills as they chat together as they eat.

The childminder demonstrates an exceptional understanding of how best to support children in their health. The administration of medication is dealt with effectively, and records are very well maintained and shared with parents, to ensure they are kept fully informed of all aspects of their child's day. Children who attend the setting who wear nappies are also effectively supported in their health. The childminder has robust hygiene routines in place to ensure the spread of illness and infection is minimised. She wears gloves to change nappies and babies and children are supported in washing their hands after this has been done.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a premises which is welcoming, secure and safe both indoors and outside. The childminder is always aware of ensuring children's safety and has relevant resources and equipment in place to ensure children are kept safe and are in her supervision at all times. Older children develop their understanding, as they make sure they play with toys with small parts up at the table, to ensure the younger children are not put at risk. All children are encouraged to think about how they can keep themselves safe. They enjoy taking part in a road safety day where they look at books and play games to enhance their understanding and awareness.

Risk assessments are done daily, and the childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of potential risks within her home. She ensures that she addresses any potential hazards immediately, in order to protect children effectively. Children learn how to take care of themselves in an emergency as they practise fire drills each month on a variety of days and at different times. This ensures that all children have a chance to join in as they enjoy role-play activities and talk about how they think they could make sure everyone leaves the setting quickly and safely. The childminder demonstrates her awareness of all children's needs, and supports babies and young children in their understanding.

Children are protected through the childminder's excellent understanding of issues surrounding safeguarding children. The childminder knows to record any concerns about a child's welfare, and existing injuries are recorded when children arrive at the setting. These records are shared with parents effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children experience a varied and innovative range of resources and activities which contribute highly to their development inside and outside the home. Children are encouraged to help themselves to equipment as they play, making use of the vibrant resources freely. The

childminder resources her provision effectively, thinking carefully about how best to support each child individually through detailed observations. Plans are then made about how to help children with their specific struggles, whilst embracing spontaneous activities as they occur. Babies and toddlers are fully supported in all activities and join in gleefully. The childminder adapts activities to suit children's interests and developmental abilities, to ensure they remain stimulated and engrossed in their play and learning. Children, as a result, flourish in all aspects of their development.

Children are exceptionally confident and revel in their achievements. The childminder displays children's work within the setting, allocating each child their own pin-board to display their work on. This promotes children's self-esteem whilst ensuring all children's achievements are equally celebrated. Relationships within the setting are close. Young children laugh and giggle as they play with the childminder, and children benefit immensely from receiving such a high level of care and attention as they play. Children enjoy a host of outdoor trips and outings to parks and farms, as well as going strawberry picking before returning to the setting to enjoy their harvest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has exceptionally good relationships with parents and children's individual needs are met through sharing information via children's individual diaries each day. Parents are actively encouraged to visit the setting, and have regular meetings with the childminder to discuss their child's development. This helps to ensure consistency is always achieved for each child, and that their development is continuously supported. Newsletters are utilised well by the childminder to share information and give parents details about the different themes planned to support children's learning. Children's progression is monitored and linked to the early learning goals, and details are shared regularly with parents to ensure they have a high understanding of their child's stage of development. Thorough policies are in place and copies are given to parents who can refer to them at any time. The childminder also seeks information about children's home lives, in order to find out about their favourite toys, names of siblings and special words used for close family members. This helps children to feel secure and settled at the provision quickly.

Behaviour at the setting is very good. Children are gently encouraged to make choices as they play and a wide range of well-planned activities ensures they remain stimulated and engrossed as they discover new things. The childminder discusses behavioural management strategies with parents in order to provide consistency for each child. Reward charts are sometimes used to support children in potty training and specific developmental or behavioural development, with children receiving a sticker every time they do well. Stickers are also given to children for being helpful or kind as they help the childminder to clear up their toys.

The childminder does not currently care for children with learning difficulties and disabilities, however knows that some children develop these. The childminder knows to support them through sharing information with parents and adapting activities to suit their needs. Children who attend the setting who have English as an additional language or are bilingual, are effectively supported through the provision of music and books from their home languages. The childminder discusses children's development with parents, and seeks key words or phrases from them in order to aid communication in the setting.

Children have an excellent awareness of the wider world as they celebrate festivals from other countries and cultures, such as, the South Indian Pongal Festival and Chinese New Year. The childminder has a wide range of resources in place to support children's understanding, as they develop respect for different cultures and beliefs. Children enjoy dressing up in costumes from different cultures as they wear saris and kimonos. They also enjoy tasting foods which originate from other countries, such as, spring rolls and samosas. The childminder supports children's interests effectively, motivating them to find out more about the world around them.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children flourish as a result of the childminder's exceptional organisation of resources, documentation and space. Children are able to spread out in their play, and enjoy being able to select their activities freely whenever they choose. The childminder believes highly in self-development, and her service to parents and children is increasingly developed and evolved, to suit each child's needs. The childminder has recently completed her diploma in home based child care, and has accessed various, relevant courses and workshops in areas such as food hygiene, safeguarding children and behaviour management. The childminder enjoys close links with other childminders and benefits from sharing ideas and best practice as they meet for outings and activities with the children. Children, as a result, gain social skills as they meet new friends, and gain confidence around other adults.

Thorough policies and procedures are in place which work well in practice to promote children's development. These are extremely thorough and give clear details to parents about the childminder's service. All documentation is effectively organised and stored securely to ensure that confidentiality is maintained at all times. Through the childminder's expert practice, children thrive in their learning and achieve highly. As a result, 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 ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources, that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

The childminder has implemented this effectively. A wide range of effective and innovative resources are in place to help support children in learning about other people's beliefs and cultures. As a result, children gain a very good awareness of social diversity whilst having fun during play.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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