

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY284002
Inspection date	19 November 2007
Inspector	Gillian Cubitt
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 satisfactory. 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 family in a house in Carshalton, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding plus one of the bedrooms upstairs for resting. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children, two before and after school and two children under 5 years on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. She also attends local parent/toddler groups. The family has one pet cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm environment. They are encouraged to be independent with appropriate support which enables them to learn about simple routines that keep them clean and develop their understanding of personal hygiene. For example, children say that they wash their hands before and after eating. Children's health and wellbeing is also supported

because the childminder is qualified in first aid and this is further supported with the parents' written consent to seek emergency treatment. There is a system to record administration of medication which ensures children's wellbeing, however there is no prior written consent from parents to sanction this; this is a breach of regulation.

The childminder takes regard of the parent's wishes, she notes the children's individual needs appropriately to ensure they eat the correct food. When children bring prepared lunches from home they are placed immediately in the refrigerator to ensure the appropriate temperatures are maintained. Children also benefit because their meals are supplemented with fruit and healthy snacks, in line with agreement from parents. Drinks are available throughout the day.

Children enjoy plenty of healthy exercise. Playing in the garden or by going to the local parks and play areas after school and during holidays. Activities offered within the home also enable the children rest times, playing with small construction toys or watching their favourite video.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the safety of a secure home environment in which to play. This is because the childminder is aware of potential risks to the children and has appropriate measures in place. For example she has installed equipment to raise awareness of fire prevention as well as a carbon monoxide detector. All toys and equipment that children use are constantly checked for quality and safety.

Children are learning about their own safety both in the home and on outings. They know to hold hands and are learning about road safety as they are taken out in the community. Children's safety is monitored and they learn to have a healthy respect for animals, especially when they meet dogs on their outings. Children also know that they have to sit correctly in the car and booster seats which ensures their safety when travelling in the car.

Documents are in place to record any concerns, accidents or incidents which protects children's welfare. The childminder also understands her duty as a professional to safeguard children. She has contact numbers and leaflets provided by the Area Child Protection Committee which inform her of procedures to ensure children are protected. However, this information has not been updated with the guidance from the Local Safeguarding Children Board; this impacts on the efficiency of her safeguarding role.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a wide range of learning and play opportunities. They enjoy outings and visits to parks and play areas. Children choose from a good range of toys and games which promote all areas of their early learning skills. Resources are readily available so children make choices which help to develop their play ideas and independence.

Children's skills and achievements are praised and their ideas extended. They are able to build and construct with 'Duplo', play with interactive toys, such as the toy computer and use their imaginations with 'small world' play. Children's social skills are developing with the help of constant interaction with their friends and the childminder. They enjoy relaxing after school with a favourite video or looking at the good selection of books available. They are also encouraged to talk about themselves, their likes, dislikes, friends and families. Children show

a good understanding of past events, they talk about their visits to Merlin's Castle where they enjoy rigorous physical exercise in the play centre. They also benefit by frequent visits to the nearby parks where they have fun playing in the fresh air, experiencing wide open spaces and using the good variety of outside equipment where they can climb and slide.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are equally valued and welcomed into the family home where available resources aid their understanding of different cultures and family settings. They learn about their immediate community because the childminder takes them on outings to such places as toddler groups and, when possible, to Dean City Farm where they enjoy seeing and learning about the lives of farm animals, such as cows, horses and goats.

Children benefit because the childminder understands each child's individual needs and adjusts the routines and activities accordingly. Children with disabilities or educational needs are supported because the childminder has taken some training so she is sensitive to working with parents and other agencies to support children's progress and development. This understanding also supports children in their understanding of how to behave well. They abide to the house rules, listen to the childminder and learn to play together and share their toys.

Children are cared for according to their parent's wishes and verbal feedback is shared on a daily basis. Parents confirm that their children are happy with the childminder. The required records are in place, however, parents of babies do not receive any written notes to remind them of essential events during the day which helps to promote and reinforce continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder plans and organises her week to meet the various needs and routines of the children in her care; taking and collecting from school as well as giving time to ensure babies and toddlers receive the appropriate attention. She is aware of the requirements to ensure all adults in the household have the appropriate checks and these are all in place. Most of the required documents are maintained that supports children's wellbeing, although the childminder was unaware of the need to obtain prior written consent for administration of medication. Confidentiality is maintained with the keeping of children's records and these are easily accessed and readily available for inspection at any time.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain resources that reflected other cultures and diversity. As a result, children now have access to a good range of attractive books and some toys which inform them of the customs and cultures of others.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain prior written consent from parents to administer medication to children
- update current information and knowledge on protecting children with reference to the guidelines from the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- develop a written system for babies' daily routines to share with parents and enhance continuity of care

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