

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY285567
Inspection date	13 February 2008
Inspector	Felicity Gaff
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 and three children in Crawley, West Sussex. She uses the ground floor for childminding and 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 three children all of whom attend part time. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends a carer and toddler group and also takes children to the library and to play in nearby parks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn how to keep themselves healthy because the childminder follows very good care practices and teaches children the reasons for them. Consequently, children understand not only the reasons for personal hygiene routines such as hand washing and teeth cleaning but also learn how to do it effectively. The childminder maintains high standards of cleanliness in the home. She minimises the risk of cross infection by providing separate toothbrushes and flannels and by having clear policies for excluding children when they are sick. She scrupulously

maintains all the records required to support children's health, and supports them with her own detailed written policies and procedures. Children have many opportunities for vigorous physical activity indoors and out, and follow a healthy lifestyle by routinely walking to and from school. The childminder works closely with parents to make sure she has full information about the food they wish their children to have, and provides well-balanced, nourishing snacks and meals. Children learn about healthy eating as they help to prepare savoury foods as well as cakes and biscuits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well-organised, welcoming environment where there are good procedures for protecting them from hazards. The garden is secure and children are unable to leave it unsupervised. There is comfortable furniture to enable children to sit together safely for meals and craft activities. The childminder provides a good range of high quality, age-appropriate toys and play resources. These are organised to allow children to reach them independently and to prevent younger children from reaching unsuitable items. However, the childminder does not ensure parents are fully informed about the arrangements for safeguarding children when using apparatus such as trampolines. The childminder is proactive in promoting safety on outings. For example, she carries contact details at all times to ensure children can be cared for in an emergency. She has a good understanding of child protection issues and understands how to protect children from harm or abuse by recording and reporting any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's care, learning and play are supported to a consistently high standard. The childminder works closely with parents to identify individual learning needs. She uses her own observations of what children do and understand to plan an interesting range of purposeful activities to help them make progress in all areas of development. Children enjoy a well-balanced range of age-appropriate activities. These include messy, creative and imaginative play as well as opportunities to work one-to-one with the childminder with books or puzzles and to explore the natural world. Children delight in experimenting with technology, becoming engrossed, for example, in discovering the different sounds and rhythms they can produce with an electronic toy. The childminder uses incidental opportunities very well to develop children's language and mathematical understanding through everyday play activities. She encourages children to contribute their own ideas and suggestions for activities, which gives them the chance to exercise choice and use their initiative. Children know they are valued at the setting because their photographs and examples of their creative work are prominently displayed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has excellent systems for working closely with parents to provide high quality, individualised care. She uses detailed records of information to establish each child's particular care needs and updates these through questionnaires. As a result, she has a thorough understanding of what parents want for their children. She forges stable, long-term relationships with children and their families, which enables her to provide consistent care and promotes excellent outcomes. Children's behaviour is exceptionally good. The clear house rules and

opportunities for the regular exchange of information enable the childminder and parents to establish common expectations. The childminder provides many attractive toys and books that offer positive images of ethnic and cultural diversity and of disability, and which promote discussions about feelings. Consequently, children begin to understand their own needs and those of other people. The childminder works closely with parents and other agencies to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Parents are delighted with the very high standard of care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is conscientious about complying with the conditions of her registration at all times and attends a range of relevant training courses to enhance her professional skills. She organises her home and equipment well to provide a stimulating play environment. She maintains the documentation required to support children's welfare and stores personal information discreetly to protect children's privacy. However, she does not always ensure that documentation accurately reflects her current practice.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder agreed to improve the record of attendance. She now maintains an accurate record of the days and times children attend in accordance with regulations.

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 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):

- improve the written agreement with parents to reflect current practice and to cover the use of the trampoline.

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