

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY252109
Inspection date	22 February 2008
Inspector	Coral Hales
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 and is a qualified practitioner. She lives with her husband and one child, aged nine, in Stoke D'Abernon, near Cobham in Surrey. The family also have a 19-year-old lodger living with them. The whole of the downstairs area is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for five children aged over five after school. She drives to local schools to collect them. There were no children present during the inspection.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family has a budgerigar.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The home environment is clean and well-maintained. In discussion, the childminder shows that she has a good knowledge of how to promote children's good health. Policies inform parents about the care of sick children. The childminder has established suitable procedures for the administration of medication. She has maintained her first aid certificate and is able to offer good care in an emergency. However, she has not obtained clear written permission from parents to seek any necessary emergency advice or treatment. She encourages children to develop and practise suitable toileting routines, and enables them to be fully independent by providing clean and suitable facilities on the ground floor and the first floor. Clean towels are used on a daily basis. If children forget, they are gently reminded to wash their hands before all meals and after using the toilet.

In discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the importance of a healthy, balanced diet with lots of fresh foods. Children are provided with a home cooked nutritious evening meal at the end of the day. The childminder encourages the children to sit together around the table and they happily discuss what they are eating and their favourite foods. Snacks are also healthy, with lots of fruit offered, and children are provided with regular drinks. The childminder gave a descriptive account of the sorts of conversations and activities she promotes to raise children's awareness of the importance of healthy eating. For example, she recently helped the children to make pizzas and together they discussed healthy toppings to put on them. The childminder is very aware of children's likes and dislikes, as she provides them with a food preference list to indicate their favourites.

The childminder demonstrates a clear awareness of the importance of promoting healthy exercise for children. She offers them opportunities to use equipment in her garden and they are very keen to use the large trampoline. When time allows, they visit the local park, which allows the children to use the large climbing equipment. Planned visits to outside areas, such as local National Trust sites, encourage the children to develop a positive attitude to exercise and enjoy activities in the fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes how she has taken appropriate action to ensure most risks to children in her home have been minimised. For example, a written fire policy details the procedures to follow in an emergency and these have been practised with the children. A fire blanket is in place in the kitchen and smoke alarms are sited on the ground floor. However, there is no smoke alarm on the first floor. Good systems are in place to keep children safe when using the car. The childminder describes how she helps children to develop their knowledge of simple road-side practices when they are out walking in the community. The premises are secure and children are encouraged to take some responsibility for their own safety within the home and garden. For example, they are made aware of the rules to observe when they use the trampoline in the garden.

Use of available space is planned well to meet children's different needs and ensure they are safe and comfortable. Play resources are organised so that children can safely access a wide range of toys and equipment from the toy boxes. Additional equipment stored in the garage

can be requested at any time by the children. All resources are clean and well-maintained. They are stimulating and are well set out to interest the children.

Children are protected as the childminder understands her role in child protection. Recent additional training has extended the childminder's knowledge, increasing her confidence in her own ability to protect children and keep them safe. She has relevant and up-to-date information relating to the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance. However, she has not kept parents fully up-to-date with the new information.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder describes in detail the ways in which she encourages children to share their interests, so that the variety of activities offered appropriately meets their individual needs. She has a good knowledge of how children learn and develop and since the last inspection has gained a Level 3 qualification in pre-school practice. She currently works in a pre-school and has gained lots of experience and this enables her to plan interesting activities for the children to take part in if they wish. She provides activities which offer appropriate levels of challenge for the after school children in her care. She is keen to ensure children have fun.

Children are offered a good range of age-appropriate resources to promote their learning and these interest and stimulate their learning. Photographic evidence shows children dressing up and others playing in the garden. The childminder describes how she sits with the children and seeks their views about what they like best and what they would like to do more of. She has created questionnaires which all the children have completed and these clearly identify the activities they like best. Art and craft activities, computer time and cooking are all favourites. They have opportunities to complete homework and the childminder supports them well and visits the library to collect books to help develop their learning relating to school work. The childminder is enthusiastic and motivated and enjoys her time with the children. Play after school is generally spontaneous and children enjoy deciding for themselves whether to play with the construction kits, sit and create their own storybooks, or make charts on the computer. Children's artwork is laminated and displayed in the kitchen and this allows them to have pride in their own achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Discussion with the childminder suggests that children are very much valued and respected as individuals. She organises the afternoon sessions to meet their individual needs and takes parents' wishes into account. The childminder has a good range of resources such as books, pictures and a range of objects from other countries to show the children. She helps to raise children's awareness of other cultures through discussion and she would use the library to research any issues or questions that they asked her. Although the childminder has no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities on roll, she has a satisfactory practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for them.

In discussion, the childminder shows how she responds effectively to meet children's individual needs. She takes time to get to know them well and has good systems in place to identify what they like and dislike. She has a very clear approach to managing behaviour, giving good examples of how she would approach a variety of situations. She discusses her approach fully with parents. She places strong emphasis on politeness and good manners, encouraging children to behave

well by using lots of praise for their achievements, no matter how small. A simple list of the rules is displayed for children to refer to. She feels their awareness of right and wrong is promoted by her clear expectation and consistent approach. She is keen to end the day on a positive note, as she likes to praise the children during discussions with parents.

Through discussion and observation of documents it is clear that the childminder has established good relationships with the parents who value the care their child receives. She shares information they need about her childcare practice before she begins caring for their child and has developed an informative folder to support her initial conversations with them. The childminder aims to ensure parents are fully informed about their child's experiences and social occasions are planned that allow all the family to become involved. Written agreements are in place to ensure all are clear about their roles and responsibilities. The childminder has a clear understanding of the new complaints procedures and parents are aware the system to follow should they have any concerns. Effective systems for recording their views are in place and written comments are positive and complimentary.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a very organised and professional approach to her childminding role. Children's care is enhanced by the effective and efficient organisation of the premises. The childminder shows commitment towards her own personal development and improves her knowledge by attending training. Since the last inspection she has gained a Level 3 childcare qualification.

Most required documents are in place, available for inspection and stored confidentially. The childminder has established good procedures for sharing information with parents on a daily basis. She shares her policies with parents and effectively outlines her responsibilities and overall childcare practice to them. Children's attendance is accurately recorded and documentation is well-organised and reviewed regularly. Therefore, children's welfare, care and learning are positively supported. Overall, the provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to extend her range of toys and resources for the older children, and to obtain relevant information to enable prompt action to be taken regarding child protection issues.

The childminder has extended her resources for the older children. She offers them a very good range to cover all areas of their development and these are well set out for them to choose and select independently. She has attended a training course to enhance her awareness of child protection issues. She now has a good understanding of child protection procedures and recording requirements, and is able to implement them appropriately. These measures enhance children's safety and help the childminder to protect children effectively.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- ensure information relating to child protection issues is shared with parents
- obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency treatment/advice
- ensure smoke alarms which conform to BS EN safety standards are provided at every level of the house.

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