

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 160554 |
| Inspection date | 10 March 2008 |
| Inspector | Christine Coram |

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| 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 2001. She lives with her partner and two children aged 14 and six years in a house in College Gate, Farnborough. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five during the day. She also cares for children over eight after school. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler, and childminding groups and a number of other outings, such as to the library. The family has three cats and a guinea pig.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is promoted extremely effectively through a range of carefully thought out procedures. For example, their hygiene is given very high priority. Hands are meticulously cleaned before snacks and meals, and the reason for this is discussed with them so that they

begin to learn why this is important. In addition to this, anti-bacterial hand gel is used to make sure that cross infection is reduced to the minimum. Very clear procedures are in place with regard to the family pets, and again, hands are cleaned after contact with the animals.

Should children have an accident, they are protected very well. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and keeps comprehensive records of any incidents. This means that all adults caring for the child are fully aware of what has happened, as copies of these records are given to parents and carers. Should children need medication, this is also very clearly documented. In addition to the consent forms for medication administered by the childminder, she has also devised a consent form for medication that is administered by the child, as this is relevant to her current care arrangements.

Children's nutritional health is imaginatively promoted. Even the youngest children help to complete a chart with details of the fruit and vegetables that they have eaten each day. They are rewarded with stickers to encourage them to continue to eat healthily. Fruit is provided as snacks and drinks of water are constantly available to the children throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is promoted with the utmost care, and successfully achieved through routines and precautions that are checked on a daily basis. The premises provide large areas for play and are kept in exceptionally good condition. The very wide range of equipment and resources are kept extremely clean. For example, plastic toys are washed regularly in the dishwasher. The toys are all wholly appropriate for the ages of the children so that children only have access to resources that are safe and stimulating for their use.

The daily risk assessment chart ensures that children are particularly safe. It includes making sure that the floors are clear and clean and that socket covers are in place. A clear emergency evacuation plan is in place and regularly practiced with the children. This is recorded along with the dates that the smoke detectors were checked. The childminder holds membership of several safety organisations that promoted road safety awareness, stranger-danger awareness and safety in the home. This helps to ensure that children learn how to keep themselves safe. Because of the layout of the home, the childminder has an alarm fitted to the toilet door, so that she is always aware of children using this area and can monitor them. Children are also very effectively protected because the childminder has confident and comprehensive knowledge of safeguarding issues and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children flourish in a stimulating environment where purposeful activities are planned and supported by the childminder. They are motivated by the range of resources and suggested activities and the results are displayed in the playroom. The provision meets the needs of children of all ages. For example, a range of sensory play is arranged for younger children, along with an array of suitable toys, games and puzzles. Older children each have a journal, where they can record their experiences in words and pictures. All children have the opportunity to develop and learn in a calm and encouraging atmosphere. The plans follow the six areas of learning, working towards the Early Learning Goals. Relevant themes are explored through activity sheets, creative activities and themed play.

Children relate excellently to the childminder, and with great affection. They are secure and happy in her care. They confidently select the resources, and play with great interest and joy. The childminder supports the children knowledgeably and talks to them throughout the day. She is very aware of the stages of development of each child and has thoroughly appropriate expectations of them. She challenges them through play and by asking questions that help them to develop in all areas. Currently, her emphasis is on language development, and she supports and promotes the development of many other skills through the range of activities offered.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because their individual needs are creatively and carefully met. The childminder is committed to providing a positive environment where they are valued and respected and where inequality is challenged. The childminder seeks copious amounts of information about the child's needs, such as their language development. She provides resources that support their learning and respect their culture and first language so that all the children are included. She adapts and adjusts her practice and activities to make them accessible to all and demonstrates a highly sensitive understanding of the additional requirements of children in her care.

Children's behaviour is managed in an immensely positive way. The 'house rules' all reflect to desired behaviour and use very positive language. This means that children are very clear about what is expected of them. They are praised prolifically and enthusiastically when they behave in the desired manner and rewards, such as stickers and certificates help to foster their self-esteem.

Children receive consistent and well-informed care because the childminder works exceptionally well in partnership with parents and carers. For example, she provides a considerable amount of information to them about their child's day and observations about their progress. The method for communicating this is chosen by the parents, so that a mix of written records and verbal communication are used. Should a parent wish to make a complaint, a clear format to record this in a confidential and transparent way ensures that parents can have confidence that their concerns would be respected and solutions sought. Parents are extremely positive in their praise of the care their children receive and their opinions are requested.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She demonstrates an extremely professional attitude and a clear commitment to improve her knowledge and childcare practice. She has a level three qualification in childcare and is working towards a degree.

Children benefit from childcare that is extremely well organised, with all the necessary resources to hand. The children can access the toys and play equipment very easily and safely, and the space is kept clear to facilitate a wide range of activities to be arranged. The children's day is thoughtfully planned to meet their all-round needs. All the required documentation is in place, clearly written and easily accessed by the childminder. In addition, she has an exceptionally comprehensive set of policies and information that are regularly updated and reviewed.

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection, the childminder was asked to ensure that children's actual times of attendance are recorded; that strategies used for time out are positive and age appropriate, and that all injuries are accurately recorded. Children are now better protected because their times of attendance are recorded in accurate detail, and if they have an accident, the record is very clear about what happened and where the injury is located. The childminder has used her increasing knowledge of childcare issues to review her strategies for behaviour management. She now has extremely positive methods in place that are wholly appropriate to each child's needs.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted received one complaint that required the provider to take action in order to meet the National Standards. The complaint related to National Standard 1: Suitable Person. Concerns were raised that the registered number of children was being exceeded. An unannounced visit took place and two actions were set under National Standard 2: Organisation. The response received to these actions was satisfactory and, therefore, the provider continues to remain qualified for registration.

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

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