

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	121696
Inspection date	12 March 2008
Inspector	Janet Marie Thouless

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 1996. She lives with her 5 children aged, 3, 4, 13, 15 and 17 years in Dorking Surrey. All rooms are available for childminding purpose but the children mainly use the conservatory and kitchen area on the ground floor. There is a large rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight years on a full-time and part-time basis. Along with two children over eight.

The childminder is happy to drop off and collect children from local schools, visit the local park, drop in groups, library and places of interest.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle and are taken care of if they have an accident or become ill, because the childminder follows appropriate guidelines and procedures, and ensures good standards of hygiene within her home. Children learn the importance of good health and hygiene practices, such as, washing hands before and after meals and after toilet visits. Children are well supported, developing their understanding of personal care and independence effectively. Effective written procedures are in place to ensure the childminder acts in the best interest of the child if they become ill, she holds a current first aid certificate and keeps all necessary medical and accident records.

The children are well nourished and receive healthy snacks, meals and regular drinks. When children are hungry they know to help themselves to the good selection of fruit from the fruit basket or ask for a drink to quench their thirst. The childminder provides varied and nutritionally balanced food each day, made from fresh ingredients. Through daily discussions and the childminders own practice children learn that 'five fruits or vegetables a day' help to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The daily routine enables children to participate in physical play activities on a daily basis, for example, garden play, regular visits to the park and places of interest, such as musical sessions where children are able to express themselves creatively. Children use a range of physical play resources, such as ride on wheeled toys, electric train, ball games and a trampoline in the garden. Younger children use the first section of the garden whilst older children are able to explore the upper level. This enables them to develop their gross motor skills, improve their co-ordination and use their imaginations.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in the welcoming, safe indoor and outdoor environment, because the childminder takes positive steps to ensure children's safety. The childminder has identified potential hazards and has a number of safety measures in and around her home to protect children from harm. These include smoke detectors, fire blanket and safety locks to doors, along with a safety gate for the bottom of the stairs. However, the glass doors leading off the hallway are not safe and may pose a hazard to children. The childminder has a clear written evacuation plan that indicates fire exits in place and knows the routes she would use to leave the house if there was an emergency. The garden area has secure fencing all around and locked gates.

Children have access to a very good range of toys and play equipment. The effective organisation of toys and play equipment on offer allows children to independently self-select to fully promote their independence in making choices for their own learning.

Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role in safeguarding children. She is fully aware of her responsibility regarding the protection of children and refers to latest government guidance. Appropriate written procedures are in place to enable her to act in the best interest of the children when and if required.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled, building their confidence and self esteem effectively because the childminder provides lots of praise and support and a range of activities that interest them. Children are supported well and the childminder involves herself in their play if needed to engage children and extend their learning. Toys and play equipment are age appropriate and meet the developing needs of the children being cared for.

The youngest child in the childminders care has only just started and the childminder offered continuous cuddles, lots of gently words of encouragement, walking him around the home and showing him toys and resources to help him feel safe, secure and settled. The child was happy just to sit on the childminder lap and watch the older children at play and this is what the childminder happily offered. The childminder had sought from the parents the child's daily routine so she is able to offer appropriate care to meet his individual needs.

Older children enjoyed colouring using a wide selection of pens and pencils showing great concentration and keeping within the lines of their picture. They moved on to look at a range of good quality books sitting on the comfy sofa reading the story out loud to themselves. They competently select puzzles and games from the range on offer completing them with ease then proudly showed the childminder who offered them lots of praise at their achievements. Older children on arrival home from school enjoy the wide range of craft resources on offer and garden play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are very well supported, because the childminder is fully aware of children's individual needs. Children benefit from the good partnership the childminder has with their parents and regular exchange of information. The childminder makes available to parents a range of written policies and procedures. This includes all her policies, for example, daily care routines, health and safety and behaviour management. Parents are encouraged to allow children to have settling in sessions, so they are comfortable when left with the childminder. Parents are kept fully informed about their children's care and progress through daily discussions, which include care routines and activities participated in.

The childminder manages children's behaviour very calmly and appropriately and this enables them to know what is expected of them. Children benefit from clear consistent guidance and support, and the childminder is a good role model. She sets clear boundaries and uses effective strategies that help children to understand acceptable behaviour.

The children become aware of a wider society and learn to respect diversity through carefully planned activities and topics; for example, they celebrate festivals using well-chosen books and a good range of resources and through outings into the local community and places of interest.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from an organised environment and daily routines. They receive good support and attention from the childminder to make them feel happy and secure in their surroundings.

Space is used extremely well and children are able to initiate their own play from the good range of resources and play materials on offer.

The childminder has developed all mandatory records along with clear written comprehensive policies and procedures that support her childcare practice. The childminder has knowledge and understanding of the recent changes to regulations relating to complaints, keeps a daily register of attendance and displays her registration certificate for parents to view. The childminder has high regard for children's well-being and their personal development. Her good practice promotes opportunities for children to be effectively supported in all aspects of their care, learning and play. Children benefit from her commitment to providing good quality childcare.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, two recommendations were made to conduct risk assessments and to review all records and documentation. The childminder has fully implemented both recommendations to ensure the care and welfare of the children and has compiled a comprehensive range of written policies and procedures to support her childminding practice.

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

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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 the glass doors are made safe.

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