

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY362230
Inspection date	22 May 2008
Inspector	Catherine Greenwood

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and three children aged 16, 14, and seven years old in Ash, near Aldershot in Surrey. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and one of the bedrooms on the first floor for sleeping purposes only. Outside play is provided by daily visits to parks and playing fields. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years at any one time, and is currently minding one child under five years. Local parks, shops and schools are within easy walking distance. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group. The family has one dog. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Babies are beginning to make progress with crawling and learning to pull themselves up because the childminder provides opportunities for them to move around freely on the floor. The childminder crawls around with babies to make this learning fun and enjoyable, however, there are currently no wheeled toys, or other play equipment to support this learning. Children have

opportunities to use large equipment, such as swings and small roundabouts, during visits to the local park. The childminder says she walks miles with babies in their buggies, and consequently, they really enjoy being outside.

Parents of children currently attending choose to provide all food, except for snacks, which are provided by the childminder. Snacks often include fresh fruit such as peeled plums, or a biscuit and drinks of water are made easily accessible in beakers. There is a system in place to record any allergies and dietary requirements.

The childminder has a secure understanding of accident and medicine administration procedures, and holds a current first aid certificate. Children are protected from the risk of cross infection because the childminder has a good awareness of hygiene practice. For example, she uses antibacterial wipes on outings, and washes babies' hands before they eat.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

As a result of respecting parents' wishes 'not move too many things within her home', the childminder has not completed a thorough safety assessment of the potential hazards. For example, the low level small pebbles in the fireplace are easily accessible to children, and are a risk to their safety.

Children show interest in using the small range of toys which are well maintained and age appropriate. However, there is insufficient quantity and variety to ensure children are provided with a stimulating environment. Children are well supervised at all times. For example, the childminder carries babies around when she has to leave the room, and puts them into their high chairs in the kitchen when she is cooking. However, some areas of the premises are unsafe for children, and have not yet been made inaccessible, for example, the stairs, and rooms undergoing refurbishment, which can be accessed directly from the dining room. The garden is also undergoing refurbishment and is not currently used for childminding purposes.

In the event of a fire, the risk to children's safety is reduced because there are working smoke alarms on each level of the home, and the childminder has thought through how she would evacuate the premises. Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures. However, not have all current documentation is available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are taken out every day on walks to places such as the local recreation centre and shops and weekly visits to the library, after school. Babies have the opportunity to socialise with others during visits to other childminders, and enjoy playing with the childminder's older children when they return from school. However, they do not have the opportunity to learn to interact as part of a large group, for example, through visits to toddler groups.

The childminder says she spends lots of time singing, dancing and listening to music with younger children. This is evident, as babies sit on her lap and copy clapping movements, whilst she sings. They enjoy the childminder's interaction and are becoming familiar with nursery rhymes.

Babies are keen to use the toys, and enjoy looking at books. This is because the childminder sits on the floor, talks to them about what they are doing, and joins in their play. For example, she shows them how to put a smaller container inside a larger one, as they discover that the two can be shaken to make a noise. Babies develop their senses, for example, as they pull themselves up, handle books that make different sounds, and enjoy looking at their reflection in a low level mirror in the sitting room. However, play equipment is very limited, and there are no activities or other resources made easily accessible to support this learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children's individual needs are well met. However, the childminder does not help children appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences through providing materials which reflect diversity.

Babies currently attending are very happy because the childminder gives priority to following their individual routines, and says she is very relaxed herself, which 'rubs off' on children. The childminder often picks babies up for a hug, and says that she gives them lots of love. As a result, children are very secure and settled in the childminder's home.

Babies are happy to share toys with others. They learn not to touch ornaments because the childminder supervises them at all times and says 'no'. The childminder says that she discusses expectations for children's care with parents and follows their requests. She has a good knowledge of how to manage any challenging behaviour through setting clear boundaries.

Children benefit from the very good relationship the childminder forms with parents. This is because she welcomes them into her home, and shares information about children's individual needs. If she is concerned about a child's development she would talk to parents and suggest referral to other agencies. However, not all necessary written parental consent has been sought from parents.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Most necessary record keeping systems are in place. However, the childminder has not recorded the hours of children's attendance. This is a breach of the regulations.

The childminder discusses her approach to the care of the children with parents, although she does not currently have any written policies and procedures to support this information.

The environment is very welcoming and there is plenty of space for children to move around freely. Most of the premises, with the exception of the garden and the playroom have undergone refurbishment and are maintained to a high standard. However, the childminder has overlooked some hazards within her home which are a risk to children's safety and reduce the opportunity to them to be independent as they become more mobile. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable - this is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

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. Since registration 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 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure sufficient toys are provided to help create an accessible and stimulating environment for children
- take positive steps to promote safety within the home and ensure proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents
- provide a range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children
- record the hours of children's attendance

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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