

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	150848
Inspection date	28 April 2008
Inspector	Mandy Gannon

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 satisfactory. 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 and lives with her 20 year old son in a three bedroom semi-detached property in Farnborough. The childminder works mainly with another minder (unique reference number 112777) at her home also in Farnborough. Minding takes place on the ground floor of the property, with toilet and sleeping arrangements on the first floor and also have supervised access to the rear garden. The premises have pet cats and fish.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight. When working with another childminder can care for up to ten children with no more than six children under the age of five and of those two children under the age of one. Currently there are 10 children who attend on a part time and full time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit as they have healthy snacks provided by the childminder. Children have water to drink which they can independently access and the childminder reminds them to drink

regularly. Children bring their own meals which are stored appropriately, with the facility to store perishables in the fridge.

Children benefit from effective health and hygiene procedures. The property is well maintained and surfaces are cleaned on a regular basis. Children independently access the toilet and are supported when required, they are aware to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and before snacks, and the childminder reminds them. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs with suitable facilities available, the childminder checks and monitors sleeping children frequently. Effective nappy changing procedures are in place, where gloves are worn and nappies are disposed of appropriately. The childminder is aware about health and hygiene policies and procedures which are shared with parents, she has an up to date first aid certificate, and has first aid boxes in the house and car. Although, some dressings in the first aid box are out of date. Children benefit as the childminder is aware of the procedures to follow before the administration of medication and clear documentation is maintained.

Children have regular opportunities for physical activities as they have an area of the garden laid to bark where they have a wide range of activities including ride-on toys. They have trips to local parks and places of interest, which all contributes to promoting physical exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment which is suitably risk assessed and where a range of safety measures have been put in place. For example, the front door is locked and the keys are close by for easy access, low level boxes which are rotated have suitable toys available for children to independently access. A fire evacuation plan is clearly displayed on the notice board and regular fire drills are practised. The childminder has a fire blanket, fire extinguisher and numerous smoke alarms in place.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained property. The environment is effectively organised so that children are able to move around safely and can freely access toys and resources. The childminder ensures that toys are picked up and encourages children to help in tidying up when required so as not to cause a hazard.

Children are protected and safeguarded as the childminder has an understanding of child protection. A policy is in place which is shared with the parents and the childminder has an understanding of procedures to follow if an allegation was made against another person in the household. The policy contains details of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board, although contact details are not easily available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and at ease in the setting and aware of the routine. They access a variety of toys from boxes around the room which are rotated and contain a variety of toys which are suitable for their age and stage of development. A wide range of toys and equipment are available both inside and outside.

Children develop an understanding of right and wrong as the childminder gives guidance and support with clear explanations. Children develop their confidence and self-esteem as they are

praised and encouraged. Children benefit as the childminder builds sound relationships with the children as she takes an active interest in what they have been doing. For example, she discusses with a child returning from pre-school what they have been doing and talks with a child about recent building work that has taken place at home.

Children participate in activities both inside and outside of the home with a well resourced garden, visits to local parks and outings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a positive partnership with parents and carers where contracts are completed and regular communication is shared to ensure that the needs of the child are met. The childminder has a clear understanding of children's individual needs which are identified and met. The childminder has a complaints policy in place which is shared with parents, although further detail is required.

Children are settled and develop a positive relationship with one another, as they show interest when others return from pre-school. Children benefit as they have a clear sense of belonging as they bring comforters from home and celebrate their birthdays. The childminder has appropriate strategies in place to manage children's behaviour, offering praise and encouragement which is shared with parents through a written policy.

Children are developing their understanding of the wider world with toys and resources that reflect other ethnicity and cultures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has written policies and procedures in place which she shares with parents and carers. Although, extra information and detail in the complaints policy and safeguarding children policy is needed. The registration certificate, liability insurance and first aid certificate are all displayed for parents on their notice board. Children benefit as all required documentation is in place, which promotes confidentiality and includes permissions from parents. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder meets the required ratios and organises space and activities to meet the individual needs of the children. For example, she sits and plays with the baby whilst older children are busy colouring at the table. Children are confident and secure in an organised environment where they are aware of the routine and two childminders work effectively together to meet the needs of the children in their care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was set actions to; ensure that there are effective procedures in place for checking that all adults over the age of 16 are suitable, devise and implement an emergency evacuation procedure, update knowledge and understanding of the new complaints procedure and make parents aware of the system to follow if they have any concerns and ensure that all required records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times. All adults over the age of 16 are now checked and the childminder is aware of procedures to follow. An emergency evacuation procedure is

in place which is clearly displayed, regularly practised and shared with parents. The childminder has made parents aware of the new complaints procedure and shared contact details, although information in the written policy needs further updating. All required records relating to childminding activities are readily available.

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 satisfactory. 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 that details of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board are available
- ensure that the first aid box is up to date

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