

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY355450
Inspection date	18 June 2008
Inspector	Amanda May
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 registered in 2007 and lives with her husband and two children in a house in Woking, Surrey. Local schools, shops and parks are within walking distance.

All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are currently four children on roll.

The family have two cats as pets. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a sound awareness of the importance of physical activity and children enjoy using the garden most days where they play with water, sand and ride-on toys. The childminder ensures children are supervised and that children can access regular drinks and snacks throughout the morning. These include fruit and biscuits. Children sit together on

the living room floor to eat, although their health is not supported as children are not reminded or prompted to wash their hands. This means that children do not develop their awareness of the importance of personal hygiene and their health is compromised.

The childminder demonstrates an awareness of the importance of keeping records to share with parents about any accidents which occur whilst children are in her care. Suitable records are maintained and these are signed by parents who acknowledge the entry. The childminder is also happy to give children medication if required and seeks signed consent from parents before this is administered. The childminder is keen to accept children into her care, even if they are unwell. This means that the spread of illness and infection is increased and that other children attending the setting are not effectively protected from illnesses such as sickness and diarrhoea.

The childminder supports children well as they learn to potty train and awards children stickers as they develop their skills. Babies are also well supported as they have their nappies changed. The childminder talks to the child throughout and children benefit from lots of eye-contact, allowing strong relationships to be forged.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a setting which is generally secure and safe. Children are reminded to take care as they play and the childminder ensures children are aware of potential safety issues. Children are reminded that they are not allowed to access the garage where some toys are stored and the childminder brings these out into the garden for them to access safely. The childminder has an understanding that children require different types of toys depending on the ages of children present and ensures that equipment is suitable and safe depending on each child's needs.

The childminder demonstrates a basic awareness of issues surrounding safeguarding children. However, children's safety is compromised as this lacks clarity and detail. The childminder does not show an adequate understanding of how she should pass on any concerns to the relevant authorities in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. Therefore, children may be at risk.

The childminder has relevant equipment in place to aid children's safety. These include stair gates ensuring children cannot gain access to the upstairs unsupervised. The childminder also has a fire blanket and smoke alarms in place on each floor of her home. However, these are not regularly checked to be in working order. This compromises children's safety in an emergency and children are subsequently at risk.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy spending time in the childminder's care. They enjoy a range of activities which are appropriate and relevant to their needs. Children all join in together and the childminder ensures that each child feels involved and included. Children access their toys independently from low level toy baskets. They enjoy investigating the toys available and empty boxes out to see what they can find.

The childminder spends time talking and playing with the children and children approach her happily for hugs and cuddles. Babies are thoroughly included in play and the childminder ensures they receive lots of attention and encouragement.

Children show interest in different things, for example when a child sees a helicopter fly above the house. The childminder extends their interest as they go outside to see it better. Children are encouraged to look at its flashing lights as they wonder what it is doing. The childminder ensures that children remain interested and focused on their activities as she encourages children to lead their own play. Children enjoy the childminder joining in with their games and strong relationships are evident.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents to ensure that children's individual needs are generally met. The childminder spends time with parents feeding back about children's experiences and has contracts in place which are reviewed annually. The childminder offers settling in visits to parents and children to ensure children feel at home in their new surroundings. Written policies are in place, including a basic complaints procedure, although these are not currently shared effectively with parents.

Although the childminder has not yet cared for any children who have learning difficulties and disabilities, she is aware that some children develop these and would work closely with parents to ensure that any concerns were addressed. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of the importance of ensuring each child's individual needs are met and works with parents to try to ensure that this is the case.

Children at the setting behave very well. They are polite and are reminded to use good manners as they say please and thank you. The childminder supervises children effectively and as such, children remain focused and stimulated in their activities. The childminder provides children with the opportunity to access a range of toys and resources. However, she lacks resources which encourage children to develop their awareness of other cultures and learn to respect people's differences.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children can access different areas of the home for their play. They enjoy using the garden, lounge and hallway with their friends. The childminder organises her space and time appropriately to provide children with a range of different play opportunities. She also demonstrates a secure understanding of the importance of ensuring her ratios are maintained.

The childminder has links with other childminders to ensure that she feels able to seek advice and support where necessary. Children enjoy the opportunity to meet new friends and also gain confidence around other adults. The childminder has some written procedures, although methods of sharing these with parents are not effective.

The childminder displays her registration certificate along with certificates of training attended in the kitchen for parents to view. The childminder plans to develop her service through attending other training courses. This will help to ensure that she can enhance the service offered to parents and children alike.

The childminder stores records and children's files effectively, ensuring that confidentiality is maintained and that documentation is kept secure. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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):

- develop procedures to ensure children are supported as they learn about the importance of keeping healthy, particularly through hand-washing procedures
- develop procedures to ensure that children attending the setting are protected from the spread of illness and cross-infection
- risk assess potential hazards in respect of fire safety and develop methods of minimising these risks
- increase knowledge and awareness of safeguarding responsibilities in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures
- develop resources and include activities to encourage children to gain an awareness of people's differences, cultures and beliefs
- develop complaints procedure to ensure it makes clear to parents the action to take if they are unhappy with the service provided and devise methods of sharing written policies with parents.

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