

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY356902
Inspection date	28 April 2008
Inspector	Deborah Jaqueline Newbury
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 registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a house in a residential area of Frimley Green, Surrey. The house is within walking distance of local schools, pre-schools and shops.

Minding mostly takes place on the ground floor of the home, with toilet and sleep facilities provided in this area. An upstairs bedroom is available for sleeping if necessary. Children have access to one area of the garden for outside play. This is fully enclosed.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years of age at any one time. There are currently six children on roll, whose ages range from 14 months to four years. Days and times of children's attendance vary.

The childminder takes children to and from local schools and nursery groups. Children often visit local parks and the library.

The family has a dog and a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are accommodated in a clean and comfortable home. They are encouraged to follow good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The display of a poster in the bathroom outlining the occasions when children should wash their hands acts as a useful visual reminder for them. The childminder implements effective procedures to protect children from the spread of infection. For example, everyone is provided with their own towel and the childminder does not care for children if they are unwell. She takes positive steps to ensure family pets do not pose a health or safety risk and follows good nappy changing procedures.

The childminder discusses and agrees arrangements for food and drink with children's parents, including their views about the provision of any treats. Any food supplied by parents is stored appropriately to ensure it does not pose a health risk to children. Children are provided with a varied selection of items that promote healthy eating and encourage them to try new tastes. For instance, they enjoy different dried fruits and seeds for snack time and are being introduced to fruit smoothies as the childminder has just purchased a smoothie maker. Children drink regularly throughout the day. Everyone has their own drinks bottle which remains within their easy reach and the childminder refreshes these constantly. Children eat together at the table, which fosters their social skills. They have all created their own placemat, which the childminder has laminated, and they proudly show these off and talk about the pictures they have drawn.

Children enjoy good opportunities to be physically active as part of a healthy lifestyle. They are provided with different play equipment to use in the garden, such as wheeled toys, a small trampoline and a sandpit. They regularly visit local parks and explore the different apparatus available. The childminder often takes bats, balls and a parachute on these outings, which adds further to the range of experiences children have. Sleeping arrangements are discussed and agreed with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is maintained in a good state of repair and decoration. The display of different educational posters, photographs of children at play and examples of their artwork helps to create a child-friendly and appealing environment and adds to children's sense of belonging. Children move freely around those areas used for minding as the childminder takes positive steps to ensure security of the premises and makes use of suitable safety features, including appropriate fire safety precautions. She is fully aware of the need to be vigilant and undertakes risk assessments on an ongoing basis to take account of the changing capabilities of the children present. Children have opportunities to practise evacuating the premises on a regular basis as the childminder undertakes fire drills with them. They learn about road safety when they are out and about and are told about potential hazards as the childminder makes use of situations that arise as part of the normal childminding day.

Children play with age-appropriate toys that are of good quality; these are checked regularly to ensure everything is clean, safe and ready for them to use. Many items are organised to be easily accessible by the children themselves, which promotes their independence.

Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection issues. She is aware of possible signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect and the action she should take if she has any concerns. Parents are informed of her responsibility. Children are protected when in the presence of others as the childminder ensures they remain within her sight at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

There is a lovely atmosphere at this childminder's home. This is characterised by happy, smiling children who enjoy good relationships with their carer. They chat freely to her and have the confidence to express their views, for instance, about what they want to do or play with. The childminder has a very warm and caring manner; she spends lots of time talking with children, which encourages their communication skills. She is interested in what children have been doing at nursery and keen to know what letters of the alphabet they are learning about. Children are keen for the childminder to join in with their play; they sit on the floor together and make up stories about different animals as they play with the farm set. Different art and craft activities are offered throughout the week and children remain occupied and concentrate well as they make spring hats and do some weaving. The childminder offers encouragement and help as necessary.

Children are presented with lots of different activities and experiences inside and outside the home, which are fun and support their learning. They experience different environments as the childminder includes outings to the library, garden centre and local parks. They sometimes go to the shops to buy things for cooking activities. Children are encouraged to weigh things out and they find out how they can use ingredients in different ways. Outings to animal farms and planting flower and vegetable seeds enables children to find out about growth and the natural world. Children talk about having recently planted sunflower and carrot seeds and they understand the need to keep these watered so they will grow. They enjoy looking at photographs of a recent trip to a farm and recall the different animals they saw and watching the birth of a calf.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated as individuals and with equal concern. The childminder works with parents to ensure she is well informed about the children she cares for and can therefore meet their individual needs. Children are given equal chances to do things and are offered choice. They find out about their own and other cultures through participation in such activities as making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, a dragon for Chinese New Year and presents for Mother's Day. The childminder makes use of the library to borrow books to promote children's awareness of the wider world in which we live. There are some resources within the home that reflect positive images of different aspects of diversity, although this is an area that the childminder has recognised she needs to expand further.

The childminder has put together some nicely written information about her childminding service which she issues to parents. This includes the policies and procedures which underpin her practice, together with some details about what parents should do if they have a complaint. However, this lacks some detail, in particular in respect of how the childminder will deal with any written complaint that relates to a National Standard and in what timescale. An informal

exchange of information on a daily basis is supplemented with the completion of a communication diary to ensure parents are well informed about how their children spend their day and how they have been. Written parental consent is obtained for some aspects of children's care although not all.

Children behave well. They benefit from the childminder's good use of praise which helps them feel confident and supports their developing self-esteem. She has thought about the type of positive behaviour she wishes to promote with children and shares this with children and parents in the form of house rules. These focus on respect and safety, such as respecting all furniture and equipment, treating each other and animals kindly, being polite and not being hurtful, offensive or dangerous to other children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She has put lots of effort into organising her home to ensure it is suitable for minding and provides a warm and welcoming environment for children. Children have sufficient space to sit and play in comfort and they move freely and independently around those areas used for minding. This helps them gain confidence in their surroundings. It is clear that the childminder has a positive and serious attitude to minding. She has completed the required pre-registration course, relevant first aid training and an Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage. She has also recently begun to undertake observations on children with a view to using these to identify their future learning needs.

The childminder maintains required documentation and most other pertinent records that promote the health, safety and welfare of children attending the setting. However, she does not keep a written record of any pre-existing injuries that children may arrive with, although she does discuss any such incidents with parents. Paperwork is very well organised and stored securely to ensure confidentiality.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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 good. 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 written parental consent is in place to transport children in a vehicle and for taking them on outings, including swimming
- expand further the information shared with parents about the way they can expect any complaint dealt with and in what time-scale
- maintain a written record of pre-existing injuries.

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