



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	138065
Inspection date	13 March 2006
Inspector	Christine Stimson

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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1993 and lives with her husband and two grown up children in a house situated in Raynes Park, which is in the London borough of Merton. All the ground floor areas of the home are used for childminding and children have access to an upstairs bathroom/toilet on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four part time children. The childminder drives to local schools and nurseries to take and collect children. She attends three different

parent/toddler groups and a tumble gym session on a regular basis. The family do not have any pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and welfare are of high priority to the childminder. She makes sure they play in an organised, clean and well maintained environment, where they learn from an early age the importance of good hygiene practise through effective well organised daily routines. For example, children are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and the childminder talks to those children able to understand about germs. She uses individual paper towels to dry their hands, which helps reduce the risk of cross infection. With the childminder's help, children are beginning to understand the reasons why keeping their hands clean is important.

The childminder has devised an excellent range of policies and procedures which are shared with parents and which support her childminding practice. For example, the sick child policy makes it clear children should not attend if they are ill or infectious in order to prevent the spread of contagious ailments to other children.

Children enjoy delicious home cooked meals which are healthy and nutritious. Parents are given detailed menus showing the types of food their child will eat, and they have the option to supply their own food if they wish. Comprehensive menus are shared with parents and children's dietary needs are always respected. The childminder is very aware that children need to drink throughout the day, and is vigilant about ensuring they always have a drink to hand. A daily diary containing details of children's food intake is given to parents each day.

The childminder makes sure children have physical exercise everyday and regularly takes them to the park where they enjoy playing on age appropriate playground equipment, developing their physical skills and gaining confidence in their own abilities. The childminder plans time for children to dance to music, to practise hopping using a hopscotch mat, to play with balls and to ride on bikes and cars, all of which promotes their physical development. The childminder's understanding of child development means she uses methods to encourage babies to crawl and move when they are ready.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a clean secure environment where they can move around safely and where high priority is given to their personal safety. Whilst caring for children the childminder takes precautions within her home. For example, she uses stair gates to prevent children entering the kitchen or from going upstairs unsupervised. The

childminder is pro-active in ensuring the inside of her home is a safe environment for children to play and each day areas of the home are checked for hazards that may cause harm to children.

Both indoors and outside, children have easy and safe access to an excellent range of toys and resources that offer stimulation and challenge and that are appropriate for the children's age and stage of development. The toys are maintained in very good condition and the childminder conducts regular visual checks on her resources to ensure there are no broken parts that may harm a child.

On outings the childminder always ensures children are safe. If using the car they are strapped into car seats appropriate for their age, and when out walking younger children are strapped into buggies. If a toddler wants to walk by the side of the pushchair the childminder covers her hand over the child's hand to ensure they stay by her side at all times. The childminder teaches children about road safety by always crossing at appropriate places, pointing out the green flashing man and asking children to keep looking both ways whilst walking across the road. This helps children to become aware of how to keep safe when on outings.

Children's wellbeing is consistently supported by the childminder who has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and a very good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children explore and experiment through a range of activities that provide challenge and stimulation to children of all ages. They regularly attend different toddler groups where they learn to take part in group activities, socialise with others and share toys with children from a range of different backgrounds.

The childminder is skilled at encouraging children to express themselves. Although the children in her care are under three years of age, she constantly talks to them, asking them questions and giving them instructions, whilst encouraging them to explore and investigate.

Children play enthusiastically whilst in the childminder's care, choosing toys for themselves from resources that are kept at child height. Weekly activities such as play dough, cookery, group games and imaginary play ensure children are kept occupied and stimulated. Children are encouraged to help the childminder and each other. For example, the older child fetches baby toys for the younger child from a special box kept just for this age group.

Children enjoy reading stories and singing gestured nursery rhymes with the childminder. Younger children learn from the older ones and gradually develop confidence to sing along, secure in the knowledge that their efforts will be met with praise and encouragement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are valued and welcomed as individuals. Their appreciation of diversity is enhanced as they play with a wide variety of toys, books and puzzles that reflect people from different cultures and of all abilities. Children attend several toddler groups during the week where they enjoy mixing with people from different backgrounds and where they can learn to share and be part of a group. The childminder is experienced enough to adapt activities to meet all children's individual needs and welcomes children with special needs into her home.

The childminder has developed close and loving relationships with the children in her care. They turn to her for support and she responds with cuddles and reassurance. She encourages children to be kind to one another, for example, by asking the older child to chat to the baby whilst her meal is being prepared. This encourages children to play harmoniously together. The childminder has developed strategies for dealing with inappropriate behaviour, using distraction for very young children and talking things through with children who have an understanding of right and wrong.

The childminder has developed excellent relationships with parents who are kept informed of how their child is progressing both verbally and through an exchange of a daily diary. This system ensures continuity of care for children.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from being cared for by an experienced person who is committed to attending childcare training and development courses.

Written policies and procedures, along with regulatory documentation, guides the childminder in her daily practice to ensure all children's needs are met. Policies are shared with parents and these help support children's needs within the setting. A care diary for each child, and informal discussions with their parents, ensures continuity of care for children.

The childminder's home and outdoor area are very well organised for children to play safely. They benefit from an environment where they receive excellent adult support to help them feel secure and confident.

The day is well planned allowing children time for quiet and active play. Information kept about children is relevant and helps to promote their welfare.

Overall, the provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was made that the childminder improve her

attendance register to include children's full names. The childminder now does this which supports the safety of children in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk