



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139856
Inspection date	03 November 2005
Inspector	June Fielden

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and 2 teenage children in Wallington, Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house, apart from the living room, is used for childminding. A first floor bedroom is used for children to sleep in. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 1 child full time and 7 children part time. She walks and drives to local shops, parks and schools. The childminder regularly attends a toddler group and childminder groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and welcoming environment. They learn healthy habits while developing their independence. For example, older children take themselves to the toilet and use paper towels to dry their hands, in order to prevent the risk of cross contamination. They are encouraged to use tissues for their nose and put their hand in front of their mouth when they cough, to prevent the spread of infection. However, children's health is not fully assured, as the childminder does not obtain written permission before administering medication.

Children are regularly offered drinks of water or juice and can request them at any time to ensure they are not thirsty. Parents provide food for children's evening meals and the childminder prepares lunches for some of the children she minds. She provides children with suitable food to meet their nutritional requirements, including healthy options such as fruit and yoghurts.

Children enjoy a range of activities that keep them healthy. They regularly go on walks, visit local play parks and leisure centres, where they can strengthen their muscles and gain control over their bodies. Children can also exercise while playing on the equipment provided in the childminder's garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from having their own playroom, which is equipped to meet their needs. The toys and equipment in the house and garden are appropriate to children's age and stage of development. Children can move around freely and select most of the toys they wish to play with. Equipment with small parts needs to be requested by older children when the younger ones are not around. The childminder uses this rule to ensure small objects do not pose a danger to toddlers, who may put them in their mouth.

Suitable measures are in place to protect children's wellbeing, such as smoke alarms and socket covers. To ensure children's safety on outings the childminder has the appropriate insurance documents and permissions from parents. Although a stair gate is available, the childminder does not currently have this in place to prevent young children from having access to the stairs.

Children are protected from harm, as the childminder has recently attended a child protection course and has an adequate understanding of this subject. She can recognise the signs of abuse and would contact the appropriate authority if she had concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well motivated, as the childminder joins in enthusiastically with their play. For example, she encouraged one child to role play at brushing and blow drying her hair. She then assisted her in giving her doll some medicine. Children are happy in their play, because the childminder is sensitive to their needs. She is aware when it is best to let them use their imaginations and develop activities for themselves.

The childminder is familiar with the Birth to three matters framework. She already puts many of the ideas suggested into practice with young children, and uses it as a resource to refresh her memory. Children assist the childminder in making the materials they use, such as play dough. They can then explore this malleable substance with their senses, using the variety of equipment provided by the childminder. She offers various opportunities for young children to be creative and develop their imagination, through jigsaw puzzles, cut and stick activities and interactive books. The childminder avoids being intrusive in children's play, but is close by to offer support when required.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals by the childminder and the same rules are applied to all. Consequently, children have a good relationship with the childminder and feel comfortable when approaching her and asking questions. She provides a range of appropriate resources to promote children's understanding of culture, gender and disability. Children with special needs are integrated into the childminder's provision by ensuring that other children are sensitive to their requirements.

Parents are pleased with the care their children receive from the childminder. She uses her diary to note what children have done and places visited, to enable her to exchange information with parents on a daily basis. If there were any problems with a child, these would be discussed privately with the parents. Children visit various groups with the childminder, enabling them to socialise with others of a similar age. As a result, they get on well with each other. Children are encouraged to show good manners and positive behaviour is rewarded with praise. Consequently, apart from minor squabbles, children are generally well behaved.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Space is used effectively, enabling children to engage in a variety of activities, to sleep or sit quietly if they wish to. The childminder plans as much of her week as possible in advance. This includes regular visits she makes to groups, trips out and the toys she will put out each day to provide variety for the children. The childminder is fairly flexible in her arrangements for the rest of the week, which depend on the needs of individual children.

The childminder does not currently have a complaints record in place. This means

that parents are unaware of the procedure to follow should they have a complaint. Children's safety is not fully assured, as the number of children the childminder cares for is not always in line with her conditions of registration.

Contracts with parents are reviewed regularly by the childminder and the information on children's records is updated in order to secure their wellbeing. The appropriate policies and most information is in place to inform new parents how the childminder organises her practice. Her records are stored securely and are available to parents on request. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous care inspection recommended that the childminder improve arrangements for children to wash and dry their hands hygienically. Children now uses paper towels, avoiding the risk of cross contamination.

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 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 written permission is obtained before medication is administered
- secure the safety of young children by ensuring they are unable to access the stairs without supervision
- ensure there is a complaints record in place and a procedure for sharing complaints with parents
- ensure adult:child ratios are met at all times.

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