



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124319
Inspection date	18 October 2005
Inspector	Gillian Cubitt

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?

This childminder has been registered since 1998.

She lives with her husband and two children who are aged 5 years and 1 year, in a house in Thornton Heath. The downstairs of the house is used for childminding purposes, which includes a playroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

It is a smoking household; smoking does not take place in front of minded children.

The family's pets are a fish and a bird.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy healthy snacks and meals. They eat fruit and yoghurt and have freshly cooked midday meals which usually consist of vegetables and pasta. This encourages children to eat food that is good for them. Children are offered drinks throughout the day so their personal needs are met.

The childminder follows good hygiene practice so children learn the importance of good personal hygiene. The childminder cleans the nappy changing area and washes her hands after seeing to children's personal needs. The childminder also ensures children's hands are clean before they have meals.

Children have plenty of physical exercise as the childminder takes them to toddler and pre-school groups each day so that they can run around and have fun with their friends. Children also go to local parks where they further practise and develop their physical skills in the fresh air.

The childminder has warm relationships with young children. Children receive plenty of hugs and cuddles which supports their emotional wellbeing. When children are ill the childminder follows set procedures such as completing details of medication given. This ensures children have the correct dosage each day. The childminder's thorough first aid knowledge ensures that children's immediate medical needs are met if they have an accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and welcoming environment. The childminder's home is well maintained and spacious, which allows children to move around safely. They have access to a good variety of toys and resources that are appropriate for their age and stage of development, such as wooden shape sorters and interactive toys. All toys are easily accessible on low level shelves so children do not have to reach and gives them independence in their choices.

Children's play space is given priority downstairs as they have their own playroom and very young children are not able to access upstairs rooms. Appropriate stair gates are in place to ensure children's safety. Outside play areas are level and enclosed, although during winter months the children do not use the garden as it becomes too muddy. However the childminder ensures children have plenty of outside play in the local park where there are safe surfaces and children remain safe under close supervision.

The childminder keeps children safe with her knowledge of first aid and child

protection procedures. This safeguards children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's home. The childminder is warm and affectionate making children feel comfortable and secure. Older children learn social skills and play with younger children well.

Children enjoy a good range of activities that support their learning and development. They visit toddler groups each day which helps them to socialise with other children and when at home they have opportunities to build, construct, stick and use crayons to colour pictures. Activities encourage their awareness of shapes and interactive toys develop their inquisitiveness as children are fascinated how magnets stick to fridges and other metallic surfaces.

The childminder uses her knowledge of the framework of Birth to Three Matters to improve communication and listening skills with children. They benefit as she spends time singing and chatting to children and developing their interests in books and language.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and make themselves at home. Children feel like part of the family which promotes their self esteem. The childminder cares for children from other cultures and she respects their individual differences and provides some resources that reflect diversity. The childminder has experience of caring for children with special needs and uses her knowledge to promote communication and comprehension skills of children in her care.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder has strict boundaries and behavioural rules which the children understand and respect. This re-enforces children's understanding of right from wrong within a safe and positive environment.

Parents and children have a friendly relationship. The childminder ensures that all details of children are accurately recorded and she keeps a written record of children's rest and meal times which the child takes home each day. This helps with the continuity of care. Parents however do not contribute with their own notes to inform the childminder what children do at home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well-organised environment where they receive constant adult attention to make them feel secure. The childminder keeps her records organised

and up to date which promotes children's wellbeing and welfare.

The childminder keeps abreast of current events in childcare, such as the framework of Birth to Three Matters to up date her own knowledge which improves her working methods with children. She attends courses whenever possible and is vigilant in taking an annual refresher course in first aid. This ensures that the childminder can take appropriate action in cases of emergency.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to ensure low level glass was protected. This referred to a full length mirror in the lounge. The childminder has now removed this mirror so children's safety is ensured.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints since the last inspection

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 all minor incidents are recorded and shared with parents
- provide parents with the opportunity to write notes about what their children do at home which further develops the two-way flow of information and continuity of care

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