



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY297556
Inspection date	09 December 2005
Inspector	Anne Jacqueline Nicholson

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 was registered in 2004. She lives with her husband and three school aged children in a quiet residential area close to Addlestone, New Haw and Chertsey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler groups. Currently there are four children on roll. She takes children to local parks and local amenities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children receive excellent physical opportunities and nutritional meals to develop a healthy body. They enjoy fresh air and some form of exercise on a daily basis as well as periods of rest and relaxation. They enthusiastically enjoy walks around the pond to feed the ducks and along the canal to see the Narrow boats. They actively participate in action songs and playing in local internal and external play park areas.

Children play and receive care in an environment that remains maintained to an excellent standard of cleanliness. All visitors to the house remove outer shoes to prevent dirt, stones or animal faeces from contaminating the children's play area. Children remain effectively protected each day from cross infection through the routine implementation of excellent hygiene practices. Toys and equipment receive regular cleaning with anti-bacterial spray or sterilising liquid and disposable gloves are routinely used for changing nappies. Children learn and demonstrate excellent personal hygiene skills. They use individual flannels and towels and wash their hands thoroughly after going to the toilet and before eating food, receiving positive encouragement at all times.

Children receive appropriate first aid treatment when hurt and accidents record sheets are routinely completed and signed by parents. A comprehensive range of documentation ensures that administration of medication and emergency treatment forms are always available to meet any individual health needs that arise. The childminder ensures that First aid equipment is always accessible, when at home or on outings, and has a valid Paediatric First Aid qualification.

Children's individual dietary needs remain fully respected when planning meals and snacks. Children enjoy a balanced diet that includes a variety of fresh food on a daily basis. The menu rotates weekly and is on display for parents to read with some visual prompts for children to also see what they will be eating. Children receive encouragement to share their own meal ideas and record any agreed amendments on the menu. Children sit socially around the table to eat together and good manners receive positive encouragement and praise. All children demonstrate excellent manners whilst eating and an awareness of the mealtime routine.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children remain safe and appropriately supervised whilst in the childminder's care, their safety is her primary concern. The environment and equipment receive daily checks to ensure there are no areas of potential hazards. Resources, equipment and documentation abide by the appropriate British Safety Standard and Government regulations. When inside children play safely accessing resources appropriate to their age and development. The childminder monitors sleeping children and at regular intervals does an additional visual check, using a timer as an audible prompt. When outside children remain under close supervision particularly near roads, ponds and the canal. They walk pavement side not road side and younger children wear reins

for additional safety. Children gain an excellent awareness of safety from clear and consistent messages on how to keep themselves safe. They learn about personal safety, road safety, water safety and 'Stranger danger'. Whilst in the car children use appropriately fitted car seats and the car is maintained in a roadworthy condition. All exits remain clear of hazards.

Children's safety is paramount and the childminder demonstrates a very good awareness of child protection issues. She is currently completing additional child protection training through the NSPCC. There is comprehensive written information in place highlighting her child protection obligations and her duty to share any concerns she may have about a child's welfare with the Local Authority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children receive exemplary care and learning opportunities throughout the week. They benefit from well planned and prepared activities and play opportunities that take into account theme work and cultural festivals. Younger children enjoy excellent activities to enhance their natural developmental progress through the childminder's implementation of the Birth to Three Matters framework. Parents and children receive an informative newsletter outlining the month's theme, any outings planned and equipment to supply. This ensures that all appropriate clothing and contributions are ready in place for when they are needed. For example when going out on nature walks children wear appropriate clothes for the weather and this ensures they have warm clothing and Wellington boots available.

The children totally involve themselves in the available activities, growing in confidence from the positive praise and attentive support they receive from the childminder. During play sessions they receive plenty of adult support and positive interaction. The childminder ensures they enjoy themselves whilst playing whilst also being encouraged to develop to their full potential. They access developmentally appropriate resources and participate in stimulating creative and physical activities. Children particularly enjoy doing creative activities and their work is proudly on display in the kitchen. Children create beautiful collage creations and pictures made out of leaves from their walks or objects linking into the theme. They work well both individually and during group collaborations. Children enjoy participating within themes and during bonfire night and Halloween opportunities include different food, books, outings and creative work. They confidently choose and request toys and equipment for themselves and the childminder rotates these to ensure they have a variety on a regular basis. Children see new resources on a regular basis as the childminder ensures that she maintains a programme of selectively increasing her toys each month.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an exemplary range of play opportunities and experiences that

promote the wider world to them. They regularly participate in fun activities that raise their awareness of other cultures, countries and the natural world around them. There is an equal opportunities policy in place that is consistently implemented and shared with everyone. Children with additional needs receive the full support of the childminder including liaising with parents, professionals and doing research on the subject to ensure their specific needs are met. The childminder has experience of supporting a child with dyslexia and willingly provides additional assistance after school. All children have equal access to the setting and there is a Special needs policy in place ensuring inclusion of all where it is in their best interest. The childminder has regard for the 'Early years and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995' and consideration is given to how she may adapt her working environment to meet an individual's needs.

Children display lovely manners and excellent behaviour. They develop excellent relationships with the childminder who provides them with plenty of verbal and physical praise. They benefit from the consistent implementation of simple house rules and posters promoting positive behaviour. Children receive daily encouragement to care, share and respect each other and any belongings.

Partnership with parents is excellent. They receive clearly written and well presented information about the professional child care service available to them. They supply information about their children's needs and provide any requirements they may have. The childminder respects and adheres to these. Parents also receive copies of the policies and documentation in use as well as information on how to raise any concerns and compliments they may have about the service. Information about their child's day, including activities and achievements, is recorded in the daily diary and also shared with them verbally. A chatty newsletter showing the themes and activities planned for the following weeks also ensures they are kept up-to-date.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children settle in to the environment extremely well. They follow a familiar daily routine and this helps them to gain a reassuring awareness of what happens when during the day. They enjoy participating in an excellent variety of well planned activities. Children develop in confidence through the praise they receive and participating in fun play opportunities. They receive excellent support from the childminder who ensures that she continually monitors the service and activities she provides. The childminder places a strong emphasis on her personal development . She attends appropriate training courses to ensure she remains up-to-date with current childcare practices and then promotes these best practices within her provision. She readily implements any new ideas that will enhance care and learning opportunities encouraging each child to develop to their full potential. The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

The childminder has a professional approach and maintains excellent documentation and records to ensure children's welfare, care and learning needs are actively promoted. Policies and procedures remain accessible to parents and are effectively

organised in clearly labelled files. Clearly written newsletters and policies ensure that all parents receive consistent information about the service provided and these include details of the process to follow if they have a concern or complaint. Parents receive encouragement to contribute information about all aspects of their children with the childminder to ensure continuity of care is promoted.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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