

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	121484
Inspection date	05 February 2008
Inspector	Sue Boylan
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 was registered in 1996. She lives with her husband and four children aged four, six, 10 and 13 years in the borough of Reigate and Banstead. All areas of the ground floor and two bedrooms are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder walks or drives to the school to take and collect children. She goes to the park, library and toddler group.

The childminder is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight years and three children over eight years, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The family have one pet cat and a rabbit.

The childminder holds a relevant early years qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good opportunities to be outside in the fresh air. They walk back from school at least twice a week, enjoy a run around on the green and play in the well equipped garden. Children are cared for in a clean, warm and well maintained home. They develop an understanding of good hygiene, for example, washing their hands after touching the animals and before meals. Children proudly show off their individually named towel, this helps to prevent cross contamination.

The childminder has completed a first aid course, this means children are treated quickly if they have an accident or minor injury. The first aid box is checked regularly and kept fully supplied. Children are protected from the risk of infection as there is a written sickness policy and parents know children do not attend if unwell.

Children benefit from the range of nutritional meals and snacks, using organic ingredients where possible, for example, sweet and sour chicken and fish pie for dinner, jacket potatoes with cheese and ham for lunch. Children are offered drinks at regular intervals and enjoy going to choose their special cup which promotes their independence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a safe, child-orientated environment which allows them to move around freely. They can self-select from the range of good quality toys and resources. There are effective safety procedures in place, including a lost child policy. The childminder gives high priority to the supervision of children and makes sure parents provide written consent before their child uses the trampoline and play equipment in the garden. Children's safety is protected because they are unable to leave the premises without a known adult.

There are good fire safety precautions, for example, children practise the emergency escape plan monthly. They are learning to keep safe, for instance, listening and watching for cars when crossing the road and holding hands or walking in pairs when out. Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection and she has written a policy so parents are aware of the procedure, however, there is no copy of the local authority safeguarding guidance available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are treated very much as part of the family. They form close bonds with the childminder who is caring and affectionate in her approach. Children enjoy a cuddle when they have finished an activity and are deciding what to do next. They benefit from opportunities to be creative, for example, using materials to make a collage and to draw family members, using felt tip pens and paper. The childminder plans some themed activities, for instance, apple bobbing and dressing up for Halloween and making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. Children happily go to the cupboard to choose a puzzle, they talk confidentially about going in a aeroplane, to go on holiday. Older school age children are able to complete their homework, use the computer and participate, for example, in a volcano exploding activity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well and respond positively to the use of praise and support. They understand the boundaries of the setting and feel secure, knowing what is going to happen next in relation to the routine. Children like to help with jobs, for example, laying the table and clearing the plates. Children are encouraged to develop a positive view of today's society by using toys and resources that reflect diversity. They celebrate Chinese New Year by making dragons and eating their dinner with chop sticks. There are good opportunities for children to experience the local and wider community with regular trips to the park, farm, local shops and library. Children benefit because the childminder works closely with parents to ensure individual needs are met. She offers a yearly meeting with parents to come and discuss their child's progress and any changes in care required. A written diary is maintained with information about the child's day recorded.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy, settled and receive good adult support. The routine is organised so children can have quiet and active play. The required documentation is accurate and maintained to a high standard, this contributes to children's health, safety and well-being. Children are protected because they are not left in the care of any person not vetted. In the event of an emergency another registered childminder is able to cover. There is a comprehensive range of policies and procedures so parents know what to expect and which promotes consistency in care. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible on the premises and available for inspection at all times; maintain appropriate ratios when taking children swimming and ensure parents are made aware of the regulator. Records are available including details of the regulator and children are no longer taken swimming.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The childminder 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):

- obtain a copy of the safeguarding children's guidance.

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