

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY254656
Inspection date	21 January 2008
Inspector	Janet Marie Thouless

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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 4 and 6 years in Thornton Heath, Surrey. The whole of the ground floor and a bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The home is within easy walking distance of local transport facilities, schools and shops.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under eight.

The childminder is happy to take children to local parks and places of interest and take and collect from local schools. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home where their individual needs are met. Mealtimes are sociable occasions and children are encouraged to eat a healthy diet as they sit together at the

table. They receive a balanced range of freshly prepared meals and snacks which enable them to develop a positive attitude towards healthy eating. Children are frequently reminded to drink, and are able to help themselves to their cups whenever they are thirsty, which allows them to be independent.

The childminder acts in the children's best interest should they become ill and cares for them sensitively until they are collected by parents. All necessary medical and accident records are in place. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate, which means she can act in the best interest of the children.

Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and physical activity, in the garden and on outings. They are developing their co-ordination and control effectively, because they have access to good physical play equipment and outdoor play provision.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play and are cared for in a secure and well maintained environment where risks have been identified and minimized to keep them safe. For example, the emergency evacuation procedure is discussed with both children and parents to ensure it is clearly understood. A range of safety devices are in place, such as, cupboard locks, socket covers, safety gates and safety film to glass, to minimise hazards.

The childminder's home has been organised to allow children to play as they require, in a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere. They enjoy playing with the good range of toys and resources on offer, which provide sufficient developmental challenge, and are maintained in a clean and safe condition. The children know what is available and have independent access to whatever they wish to play with.

Children are well protected because the childminder understands her role in safeguarding children. Effective procedures advise parents of their responsibility and the childminder knows how to record and refer any concerns. This ensures the childminder acts in the best interest to safeguard the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and confident in the childminder's home. They are provided with a good range of activities, such as craft making, games and imaginary play. Children also have many worthwhile opportunities to investigate topics, such as, the local environment and recycling resources, looking at different ways they can recycle paper. There is also a strong emphasis on promoting children's understanding of letter and number recognition and children have been on local walks to view words and numbers within the local community.

The childminder fully supports children when they complete craft activities giving them ideas on what to do next. Children made bags, necklaces and head bands from newspaper. They select glue and sticky tape confidently cutting the tape to the required size. They displayed all that they had made on the sofa ready to sell in their shop. The childminder involves children in discussions, asking them open-ended questions that make them think about what they are doing. Routines are relaxed and informal and allow children time to unwind after a busy day at school.

Children form close and warm relationships with the childminder and approach her confidently for support and reassurance. The childminder fully understands each child's individual need and provides appropriate care and support to address these. The childminder's home provides a happy and homely atmosphere where children are regarded as additional members of the family. The children are sociable, happy, have fun and enjoy quality time with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals, helping them to feel good about themselves. The encouragement and support children receive from the childminder motivates them to behave well. This enables them to complete tasks successfully and builds their self esteem and confidence. Children play together amicably, guided by the realistic boundaries set by the childminder. Consistent praise and encouragement from the childminder ensures children are constantly reminded they are doing well.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to support children and meet their individual needs. Daily discussions take place each day to share information about the children to maintain continuity in their care. Parents are also able to view the notice board in the hall which contains useful information and topics covered. This helps to build trusting relationships and fully includes parents enabling them to extend children's learning at home and keeps them up to date regarding the service on offer.

Children learn about their local community as they visit places of interest, such as, library, local walks and parks. The childminder provides a broad range of resources to promote the children's learning about the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. The childminder has a positive approach to caring for children with a range of different needs and abilities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well organised daily routine which is planned around their individual needs. They are relaxed and at ease in the childminder's home, which means they are confident to initiate their own play whilst feeling settled and content. Children are well supported at all times, ensuring they are protected from unvetted persons and kept safe.

The childminder has the required documentation in place. Her registration certificate is clearly displayed for parents to view. She is aware of the importance of confidentiality and children's personal information is kept safe in individual files. The childminder has knowledge and understanding of the recent changes to regulations relating to complaints. However, the current complaints statement does not show how any complaint received will be investigated as required. She has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration, thus promoting the children's welfare and learning. The childminder has attended a number of childcare courses and has recently attended a course on creativity using media and materials to support the topic of recycling. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, five recommendations were made to ensure that smoke alarms are fitted and in working order on all levels of the home and ensure that the garden shed does not pose

a hazard. Make sure that sharp knives and glass bottles are inaccessible to minded children in the kitchen area. Provide a suitable range of toys and activities, in order to meet the developmental needs of school aged children and request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has in place smoke alarms on all levels and has fitted a lock to the garden shed. Sharpe knives and glass bottles have been made inaccessible to minded children. A range of appropriate resources have been acquired and parents have given written permission to seek medical advice or treatment. This ensures the safety and wellbeing of minded children.

Complaints since the last inspection

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

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 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):

- update the complaints procedure in line with current legislation.

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