

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276461
Inspection date	10 January 2008
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2003. She lives with her husband, who is her assistant, and her two children aged seven and three in Carshalton, Surrey. The whole of the childminder's home, apart from the master bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five part-time and one child over five after school. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. She attends a local toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy home. Sick children are excluded to protect others from infection. The childminder's accident and medication records are well kept, and prior written permission is obtained before any medication is administered. She maintains children's good health through effective hygiene routines. Children use liquid soap and paper towels

when they wash their hands, to avoid cross-contamination. However, she has not obtained written permission for the emergency medical treatment of all children, which impacts on their wellbeing.

Children are provided with a nutritious diet, as the childminder has an effective understanding of healthy eating. She obtains information about children's allergies and dietary requirements from parents and provides a weekly menu for them. Meals are cooked from fresh ingredients and include plenty of fruit and vegetables. Children are regularly offered drinks to ensure they are not thirsty.

Children exercise by playing in the childminder's garden, using the wide variety of apparatus that is available to them, including a large climbing frame. They are taken on walks to local parks and different groups where they can socialise with others while strengthening their muscles on the equipment provided. Young children sleep in a travel cot when they are tired, and older children rest on the settee in the childminder's living room.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move around freely throughout the ground floor of the childminder's home. They select the toys they wish to play with from her children's bedrooms, where they are stored. There is an appropriate selection of toys and equipment to meet the needs of all children. The childminder checks that the resources conform to safety standards when they are purchased.

The childminder has some sound safety measures in place. She has devised an emergency escape plan which is practised with children. She regularly completes risk assessments and ensures that socket covers and stair gates are fitted. However, there are currently some hazards in the house and garden which impact on children's welfare. A fence panel is not in place in the garden, and some wires and a wine rack are accessible to children in the house.

Children are protected from harm as the childminder is aware of how to recognise the signs of abuse. She knows how to record and report her concerns when necessary, and understands the need to ensure confidentiality is maintained.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with well organised play opportunities to meet their individual needs and to promote their welfare. They are spoken to in a friendly manner by the childminder and she shows interest in what they are doing. As a result, they feel comfortable enough to ask for her assistance when necessary. She effectively demonstrates to children how to operate the toys, to enable them to use them unaided. For example, the childminder showed one child how to use the buttons on a Thunderbirds model in order to make it talk. She follows up on anything children show interest in, such as the kiwi fruit they were offered at lunch time. This led to a discussion on how plants grow from seeds under the ground.

The childminder sits on the floor with children to participate in their play, and she praises them for good ideas. Children are encouraged to tidy up for themselves to develop their independence. The older children engage in role play, and involve the younger ones in their activities. They produced their own show for their parents at Christmas, and have decided to follow this up with an Easter play which they will produce and direct for themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are all treated as individuals by the childminder. She liaises with parents to meet their individual requirements and talks to older children to encourage them to tell her about themselves. The childminder efficiently raises children's awareness of diversity by celebrating festivals from different cultures and involving them in discussions about disabilities. Although she does not currently have any children with learning difficulties or disabilities on roll, the childminder has a good understanding of how to meet their needs.

The childminder communicates with parents in a variety of ways, through telephone calls, emails and by talking to them at the end of the day. Parents of younger children are provided with a daily sheet which gives them useful information about their child's progress. The childminder also arranges appointments to talk to parents when children are not around if there is anything they wish to discuss with her. Parents have been informed of the childminder's complaints procedure, and are aware of how any concerns raised will be handled. The childminder uses effective strategies for managing children's behaviour, and they are informed of her house rules, which she expects them to follow. She promotes and rewards positive behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder makes sure that she can see children at all times when visitors are present, in order to ensure their safety. Her assistant is appropriately supervised and knows children's requirements and routines. The childminder's records are stored securely to maintain confidentiality and made available to a child's parents on request. Her certificate of registration is on display, to make parents aware of the conditions under which the childminder operates. She has a service statement and folder of information to show new parents, to let them know how she organises her practice. However, the childminder does not record children's hours of attendance, which is a breach of regulations and impacts on their safety. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last care inspection recommended that the childminder establish a written agreement with parents that sets out the expectations of both parties as to the activities provided. In addition it was recommended that the childminder request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder now has contracts which are signed by parents and give details of the activities she will provide for children, to ensure their wellbeing. She has not yet obtained written permission from all parents for the emergency medical treatment of children, and this has been entered as a recommendation on this report.

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 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):

- obtain written permission for the emergency medical treatment of all children
- ensure that the home is free from hazards
- ensure that the garden is made safe
- ensure that children's hours of attendance are recorded.

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