



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	507433
Inspection date	14 February 2007
Inspector	Patricia Jane Daniels
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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1993. She lives with partner and four children, one of whom is pre-school aged. The family live in a house in West Molesey, Surrey. The childminder provides a dedicated playroom for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. A bedroom is available on the first floor for sleeping children.

There are currently no children on roll.

The childminder is within walking distance of local schools. She attends the local parent/toddler group, and takes children to the local library and park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder advises that she has procedures in place to minimise potential cross infection. For example, she provides children with individual paper towels for drying their hands and makes sure that the high chair is cleaned immediately after use. Children who are unwell and contagious are excluded, so that they do not present a source of infection to others. Children learn about personal hygiene through the routines encouraged by the childminder, such as washing their hands before eating.

Parents provide meals for their children and the childminder advises that she offers snacks of biscuits and fruit, according to parents' wishes. She makes sure that children have regular drinks so that they do not become thirsty, especially during warmer weather.

Children have daily opportunities for exercise. For example, they go for walks and visit the local park to play on the equipment. When the weather is poor, they visit an indoor soft play area. These measures promote the children's physical development, and they benefit from the regular exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has assessed her home for safety and taken steps to minimise identified risks. She checks all areas and equipment used by children to ensure safety. She advises that children do not have access to the first and second floors of the property, apart from the use of one bedroom on the first floor for sleeping. She has a stair gate fitted to the dining area and cupboard locks in the kitchen to prevent children's access. The childminder has not supplied a fitted fire blanket or smoke alarms to all levels of the house.

The childminder considers children's safety when on outings and only takes them to venues that she considers suitable. She advises that she helps children to learn about safety when they are out. For example, she talks to them about crossing the road safely and walking sensibly on the pavement.

The childminder understands her role in safeguarding children and the procedures to take if she has concerns. This promotes the welfare of the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a variety of toys for children's selection in the playroom and rotates the toys to keep the play provision fresh. She advises that she offers a range of activities during the day. This includes outings to toddler groups where children can develop their social skills and opportunities for quieter times and rest at home, according to the children's needs.

The childminder offers children creative play, such as painting and dancing to music. Children have opportunities for imaginative play with small world toys and dressing up clothes. The childminder advises that children learn through their play activities and she encourages this, for example, by talking about colours and numbers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder offers short sessions initially for new children, so that they can settle more easily. She uses these times to find out more about the children and ask any questions she has about their care and preferences. The childminder has some resources that reflect the diversity within our society and explains differences to children to help them understand.

The childminder advises that she encourages children to learn to share and respect each other. She manages children's behaviour consistently by setting boundaries, so that they understand the limits within the household. She praises children when they have done well and distracts them from unwanted behaviour.

The childminder likes to have a friendly relationship with parents. She makes time for conversations at the beginning and end of each day, so that information about the children is shared. The exchange of information promotes continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has organised her home to provide a safe and suitable place for children. She has current training in first aid. However, she has not undertaken any further training to update her knowledge of current childcare practice. She is not currently minding children.

The childminder has had recent changes to members of her household, but has not informed Ofsted in order to carry out the necessary checks of suitability. She has documents in place to keep the required children's records. However, she has not ensured that these are stored confidentially on her premises, so that they are available for inspection at any time. These omissions present some risk to children and are a breach of regulations.

Evidence suggests the needs of all children would be met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, Ofsted requested that the childminder should develop further links with parents to keep them fully informed of their children's activities and progress. The childminder has tried using a communication book, but found it to be too time consuming and of limited benefit. She prefers to use an informal approach and make time for conversation with parents. In this way, parents find out about their children's activities and progress. Ofsted also requested that the childminder should protect children from the potential hazard of any poisonous plants in the rear garden area. The childminder has since moved premises and she

has checked her garden to ensure no poisonous plants are present that could be a hazard to 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

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At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

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):

- improve fire safety precautions by fitting a fire blanket in the kitchen and smoke alarms to all levels of the house
- ensure that Ofsted is informed of any changes to household members and that required records are available for inspection at any time.

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