



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	507546
Inspection date	07 June 2005
Inspector	Debbie Molly O'Callaghan
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder co-minds with her mother and works in her mothers home.

She is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under the age of eight years.

When co minding with her mother the maximum number of children on the premises should not exceed 12.

There are 12 children on roll.

The modern mid terrace house is situated to the south of Reigate town.

Minded children have access to all areas on the ground floor and there is direct access to a small enclosed garden from the play room.

An enclosed field next to the house also provides a further play area for the children.

There are no pets on the premises.

The childminder is an accredited member of the Surrey Childminding Network and receives nursery education funding for children in her care.

She has a current first aid certificate and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very well cared for in a clean well maintained environment.

Children experience an extensive range of physical activities as they play in the garden using the tricycles, water tray and imaginative play materials. They enjoy regular outings to the park and local environment. This enables children to develop their physical skills and improve their co-ordination. The children practice throwing and catching balls with increasing skills.

Meal and snack times are sociable; children happily sit at the table with the childminder and talk about what they are eating. Children eat a wide range of healthy snacks including sesame and pumpkin seeds and raisins encouraging them to develop healthy eating habits. The childminder demonstrates an excellent awareness of healthy eating. She meets the children's dietary requirements by providing a varied diet including vegetarian options. When possible she uses vegetarian substitutes to provide children with similar meals. Children can easily access drinks when they are thirsty, older children help themselves and the younger children are offered drinks at regular times.

Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene and understand why they need to wash their hands after visiting the toilet or before eating food.

Children are learning to keep safe when playing in the sun, the childminder encourages them to wear hats, play in the shade and wear sun cream.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a spacious well maintained home where all risks are identified and minimised. There are safety shields on the door leading to the garden and a safety gate to prevent crawling babies accessing the garden without supervision. This means they are able to move around freely, safely and independently. Children have a good awareness of safety and know not to run around where there are obstacles.

As part of the daily routine, children are encouraged to help to tidy away their toys, for example, before they go outside to play.

Children independently select activities from a very accessible range of high quality resources and equipment.

Children are safe when they are sleeping because they are closely monitored. Children's individual sleep patterns are respected and they can rest when they need to in travel cots and mattresses with individual bedding.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and working practices, enabling her to follow the relevant procedures should she ever have any concerns. She informs parents of her roles and responsibilities in child protection, this ensures children are protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle very well at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. They relate very well to each other.

Children flourish in all areas of development because the childminder uses her extensive knowledge and skills to ensure their individual needs are met. All children spend their time purposefully.

The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to adapt activities to promote younger children's learning.

Children gain in confidence and self-esteem as they select their own toys and the childminder understands how to promote independence by waiting for children to do things for themselves, for example when washing hands and serving themselves at lunch. Children enjoy craft activities that encourage them to use their senses, sticking materials of different textures and discussing which are soft, smelly or scary. They come together voluntarily with the childminder to share the closeness of well-delivered songs and stories and join in enthusiastically when accompanying the childminder's guitar playing.

Children are extremely imaginative. They make sense of the world around them in the stimulating outdoor area, younger children enjoy using large paintbrushes and water to make patterns on the ground and walls. Children play well together and share dolls and buggies in their role play.

Nursery education

The quality of teaching and children's learning are outstanding. The childminder has an excellent knowledge of the Foundation stage and how children learn effectively. She plans very interesting activities, using a range of imaginative resources, and adapts these to meet individual needs and interests. As a result children are highly motivated and make many very good links in their learning. Children are confident speakers and good listeners. They happily relate past experiences, such as tales of their holidays and can talk about their feelings, using a wide range of vocabulary. They have access to a wide range of good quality books and listen avidly to stories, joining in when required and giving thought to the questions asked by the childminder.

They use mathematics in everyday situations, such as water play, counting everyday objects.

Overall children are making outstanding progress in all areas of learning. This is recorded in photographs, videos, children's work and written observations which link well to the stepping stones. Records of children's achievements are attractively presented and shared well with parents. The childminder discusses with parents how the progress and learning can be extended at home. These records are used very effectively to plan the next steps in children's progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are treated with respect helping them to feel good about themselves. The childminder has a sound understanding of all equal opportunities issues through training courses and experience, and has a positive attitude towards diversity. Children develop an awareness of their own and other cultures through playing with toys which positively reflect diversity, tasting food and listening to music from a range of cultures.

Children develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through the regular outings and trips provided.

Children's behaviour is excellent, they learn to play together cooperatively sharing and taking turns and there is plenty of equipment to help avoid disputes. They make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do, helping themselves to drinks and independently visiting the toilet.

Children have time to relax as well as be active through the many activities and opportunities that are provided.

The partnership with parents is outstanding. Parents are kept extremely well informed about all aspects of the care, through daily discussions and an informative information pack. The childminder keeps written and photographic records of children's progress which are attractively presented and shared with parents. This helps ensure children's needs are very well met and that home routines are not disrupted.

The provision fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very at home and benefit from the exceptionally well organised play space and daily routine provided. They receive good support from the childminder who enjoys their company and knows them well helping them feel secure and confident.

The well written policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities.

Comprehensive planning systems are regularly reviewed and adapted to ensure children's needs are fully met.

The childminder is highly committed to continuous improvement and development. She regularly attends relevant training covering many aspects of her childminding business, including the foundation stage.

The childminder works with a co minder, they work very well together and are aware of their individual responsibilities, they are both accredited network minders receiving effective support from the local network coordinator, which keeps them motivated and enthusiastic in their work. This means that they provide a stimulating environment and fresh, imaginative activities for children.

The childminder is in receipt of nursery education funding.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has produced a written statement showing clearly the arrangements; when working with an assistant or co minder.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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