



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110986
Inspection date	24 May 2006
Inspector	Michele, Karen Beasley
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 1997. She lives with her husband and 1 child, aged 8 years. They live in a property in Hayling Island. All of the ground floor and a bedroom upstairs is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear grassed garden for outside play. The childminder lives within close walking distance to local schools, pre-schools, shops and parks. The family have a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and currently cares for 5 children under 5 years on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder implements effective health and hygiene policies and procedures to promote their hygiene and prevent the spread of infection. For example, she washes her hands before and after changing children's nappies and disinfects the changing mat after use. Their health is well maintained and written information is obtained from parents regarding children's medical history, allergies and special dietary requirements ensuring their individual needs are fully met. The childminder does not have a valid first aid certificate in place which compromises the well being and safety of the children. However, she records accidents and the administration of medication appropriately ensuring children remain healthy. Children learn the importance of following good personal hygiene routines, for example, as they wash their hands before snacks and meals and after going to the toilet.

Parents can supply their own child's meals however, the childminder has a flexible approach to providing a range of snacks and light meals such as yogurts, sandwiches, fruit and light meals such as chicken and fresh vegetables. She works closely with parents to ensure the children's individual needs are being met and the parents wishes are being respected at all times.

Children have ample opportunities to develop their physical skills, for example, kicking balls, riding on sit and ride trikes, swinging from the tree swing and running and jumping in the childminder's garden. The range of equipment used provides ample challenges for all the children who attend, helping to develop their self-confidence and muscle skills. The childminder ensures the children go out daily to reap the benefits of the fresh air and children enjoy their outings to places such as local farm, Marwell Zoo and the teddy bear trails in the woods.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a safe and secure environment as the childminder has a good understanding of the potential dangers and hazards within her home, enabling children to move freely and safely around the premises. For example, stair gates are used to prevent children from accessing areas unsupervised and a fire guard is in place. Children learn how to take care of themselves through daily routines, for example, as they talk to the childminder about where it is safe to cross roads. Children feel safe and are settled due to the good levels of support and supervision provided by the childminder. A fire evacuation plan is in place and fire drills are carried out with the children which ensures children's safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and who to contact. Children are able to access the resources freely, developing their independence fully. The clean and well maintained toys and play materials are stored in the lounge. Children make their own choices throughout the day and the childminder supports and encourages them enthusiastically, promoting their self-esteem effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Interaction between children and the childminder is very good and children are extremely happy and have a wonderful time in her care. They thrive in the stimulating learning environment playing a part in planning their own activities and making decisions about the experiences they participate in. Children's independence is well promoted because they can freely access the good range of play materials and resources from plastic boxes and toys at low level and on the floor. Babies and young children benefit from the stimulating experiences provided. They babble to the childminder, imitating the sounds and noises she makes while becoming skilful communicators. Children become competent learners as they make tall towers from duplo in response to the continual praise from the childminder. Children snuggle up for cuddles whilst being read a story showing a strong sense of self assurance and attachment and enjoy playing with a farm and animals with the childminder and their peers.

Children benefit enormously because the childminder is effective in the way she organises a good range of activities and experiences to meet their individual needs and interests and provide appropriate stimulation. She has a secure knowledge of child development and recognises the importance of play in a child's development. Children enjoy being imaginative and representing their own ideas, for example through role-play and exploring creativity using a range of different media. They delight in taking pictures of the childminder with their home made lego cameras and benefit from her enthusiasm and willingness to join in their play. Children are encouraged to solve their own problems, for example they work out how to make the playdough flat whilst rolling it with rolling pins.

Children enjoy many opportunities to visit places in the local environment, for example they go on outings to a range of parks and the beach. This helps to develop their social skills and their ability to form positive relationships with their peers in a secure, safe and stimulating environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are valued as individuals and benefit because the childminder has a good knowledge of their individual needs, interests and abilities, which helps her to plan appropriate activities ensuring their interest is sustained. Children become very self assured and confident in the childminder's care, and benefit from the warm and trusting relationships they develop with the childminder and their peers. Their behaviour is good and children know what is expected of them such as packing away toys. They learn to share and take turns and are helped to understand this by gentle discussion with the childminder about how it is kind to play together, for example, when both children want the same toy.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities. Children to learn about the wider world, for example through the use of toys and equipment and learning about celebrations such Halloween and Easter. She has experience caring for children with special needs, recognising the need to work together with parents and outside agencies, to ensure each child's needs are fully met.

Children benefit enormously from very good working relationships between the childminder and their parents; the numerous thank you cards highlight the childminder's commitment and dedication to her role. Parents are well informed about their child's day through informal discussion and through the implementation of daily diaries, which includes details about what their child has eaten, how long they have slept for, nappy changes and general information about their day. They receive detailed information about the service the childminder provides through written policies and procedures. They know how to make a complaint and receive written information. However, the procedure has not been updated to include the requirement to keep a complaints log, ensuring information is effectively shared with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit because the childminder knows them well and plans her day accordingly, to ensure she is well organised. She plans a suitable range of experiences that fully involve and interest all children and makes good use of her home, resources and facilities in the local environment, ensuring children enjoy the time they spend with her. The childminder uses appropriate records to safeguard children's welfare, although some lack in detail, and has a generally good understanding of most of the regulations and requirements set out in the National Standards.

The childminder promotes positive outcomes for children and recognises the importance of working together closely with parents, ensuring they are well informed about herself, her family and the service she provides. Children are happy, develop confidence and independence and build positive relationships in a secure and welcoming environment. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder was asked to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder has obtained written permission from parents in the event of a medical emergency. Ensure all first floor windows are made safe. The childminder has moved house since this recommendation was made.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- update the complaints procedure to include the requirement to keep a complaints log and share this information with parents.

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