



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111802
Inspection date	12 June 2006
Inspector	Lisa Jane Cupples
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 has been registered since 1988. She lives with her husband, two adult children, and one child over eight-years-old. They live in a house in Gosport, within walking distance to local schools, shops and parks. All areas of the property can be used for childminding with the exception of the second floor. It is the childminder's normal practice to use the ground floor only. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years. At present, the childminder cares for seven children under eight years on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and is part of an Accredited Childminding Network. The childminder has continued to train throughout her childminding career.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a healthy diet, the childminder provides a range of nutritious snacks. She is aware of the need to promote healthy eating from an early age and ensures the children's individual needs are met through discussion with the parents. Children learn about healthy eating through conversations about the type of things they like to eat and what foods are good for them. Children participate in a range of physical activities developing their large muscle skills well. They have many opportunities to run and jump in the garden and through using the local parks.

Children are protected because the childminder has a very clear understanding of procedures and record-keeping regarding accidents, although not all medication records have been signed by the parents to acknowledge the administration of medication. Children's self-care skills are promoted well as the childminder actively encourages them to wash their hands at appropriate times to develop their understanding of staying healthy. Children will receive appropriate treatment if an accident occurs because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. A fully stocked first aid kit is stored in the kitchen and the childminder checks the contents to ensure they are up-to-date, helping to keep the children healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very safe and secure because the childminder is vigilant. She recognises potential hazards and addresses them immediately. For example, all cleaning materials are stored safely out of the reach of children, stair gates are in place to prevent the children using the stairs and all plug sockets have been covered, helping to protect the children.

The childminder provides a wide range of equipment, toys and resources which are in good condition helping to keep the children safe. The children are able to choose freely from the extensive resources and equipment developing their independence effectively. Children are fully protected because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and would recognise the possible signs of abuse. Children are safe because clear arrival and collection procedures are in place. Parents are required to come into the house to drop off and pick their children up. If any other person is going to collect the children the childminder asks that the parents introduce them first if possible, so she knows who they are, fully protecting the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled, they laugh and giggle with each other and the childminder throughout the day. The childminder actively listens to the children and responds quickly to their needs, helping them to become skilful communicators. Children are able to choose from a wide selection of resources developing their freedom of choice and self-esteem. Children are

supported well because the childminder knows when to assist the children and when to let their play develop naturally using their own ideas. Children have many opportunities to express themselves freely, they sing and dance and role-play using their imaginations extremely well. The childminder enables the children to develop their play by providing additional resources. Children feel valued and are confident because the childminder allows them time to work things out for themselves, developing their problem-solving skills and boosting their self-esteem effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly into the routines because the childminder ensures they are consistent with home. Their needs are catered for through detailed discussion with the parents, and the childminder treats each child as an individual. Children's behaviour is extremely good because they know exactly what is expected of them. The childminder manages behaviour calmly and effectively ensuring clear rules and boundaries are in place, for example, gently reminding the two children to share and take turns, distracting them if necessary. Children can see they have been treated fairly when the childminder explains clearly, taking each child's age and understanding into account, therefore the children's self-esteem and confidence are promoted well. The childminder has a positive approach to working with children who have special needs. Children benefit greatly from the strong links with home and the information shared. Children develop a positive view of the world around them through a range of practical activities and outings.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are fully occupied with many play opportunities during their time at the setting, as the childminder organises the daily routines exceptionally well. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children's health, safety and well-being is promoted because all the legally required documentation is in place and most is well maintained. Children benefit from an organised, safe, secure environment, where they are protected by sound procedures. Children enjoy their time with the childminder because resources and activities are planned well and the days are full and run smoothly. The childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process, keeping children safe. The childminder continues to attend training, this ensures her practice is up-to-date and enhances the opportunities she provides for the children in her care, so the children benefit greatly from her knowledge and experience.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the full details of each child is included on the daily attendance register. All details are now recorded clearly and the register provides a detailed, accurate record of the children's attendance at the setting, helping to keep them safe.

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):

- ensure parents sign to acknowledge the administration of all medication

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