



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113300
Inspection date	06 April 2006
Inspector	Gill Moore

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1993. She lives with her husband and two older children in a mid-terraced property in Havant, close to local schools, shops and parks.

The whole of the ground floor and an upstairs bathroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family have cats and fish.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 years and is currently

minding 2 children on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is assured because the childminder has completed relevant first aid training and knows how to deal with accidents effectively. They stay healthy because effective procedures are in place to maintain children's hygiene, for example around pets in the home and they learn the importance of following good hygiene routines, such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before meals. Children's individual medical requirements are obtained from parents and written consent provided for the childminder to administer medication. However, these procedures are not fully developed to ensure that details of when inhalers are given to children are recorded and those records in place do not include children's full names and do not maintain confidentiality.

Children enjoy regular opportunities to engage in physical activities, for example they regularly visit local parks and develop their skills using a range of apparatus including swings, slides and climbing frames. They benefit from using the childminder's garden, particularly in the summer months, where they learn to negotiate bicycles, push prams and buggies and develop their skills in using balls, which helps to promote their understanding of the importance of taking regular exercise as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Children bring a packed lunch to the childminder's home but are provided with snacks during the day. Their individual dietary needs are respected, however snacks tend to consist of juice and biscuits, which does not actively promote children's understanding of healthy eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is ensured because the childminder is aware of risks and hazards and ensures these are removed throughout her home and garden. For example, stair gates are placed on the lounge door and at the bottom of the stairs to prevent younger children from attempting the stairs without supervision. All glass in the home is toughened and dangerous substances and objects have been made inaccessible to children. Consequently, children benefit because they move freely and safely around the home and garden. Children have independent access to an adequate range of play provision and materials suitable for the ages and stages of development of those being cared for. Effective procedures are in place to ensure equipment and play resources are clean, safe and well maintained contributing to ensuring children's safety.

Children are protected and safeguarded from harm because the childminder has an adequate understanding of child protection issues and knows how to implement local procedures. She makes all parents aware of her responsibilities with regards to

protecting children in her care and implements effective procedures to record children in and out of the setting and to ensure their safe collection by appropriate adults.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and are happy and settled whilst in her care. They are actively engaged in their play and benefit from being able to make their own decisions about what they play with. This helps to develop their independent skills and children show good concentration and perseverance, for example as they confidently complete jigsaw puzzles by themselves. They enjoy expressing their imagination as they prepare a tea party and invite the childminder to join in with their play. Children benefit from the warm relationships established and the childminder actively supports their play, for example as she talks to children about what they are doing and sits on the floor with them to play.

Interaction is extremely positive between the childminder and children and she provides a good range of activities and experiences helping to develop and consolidate their early learning. Children explore creativity, for example by drawing and using magic paint and talk about numbers, letters and sounds using books, puzzles and a flipchart in the childminder's home. They enjoy opportunities to engage in physical activities and go on outings as well as spending quiet times in the childminder's home playing games and snuggling up for a story.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are valued as individuals and benefit because the childminder has a very 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 generally good and children know what is expected of them. They learn to share and take turns and are helped to understand this by gentle discussion by the childminder around how it is kind to play together, for example when both children want the same piece of equipment. The childminder has an appropriate understanding of equal opportunities and helps children begin to gain an understanding of diversity, for example through the use of books and discussions about their families and birthday celebrations. She has a positive attitude towards 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 from good working relationships between the childminder and their parents, which helps to secure their sense of belonging to the setting. Parents are well informed about their child's day, for example through informal daily discussion and are helped to understand the role of the childminder through the registration and induction procedures. The childminder obtains detailed information about children's

individual needs and requirements to ensure she is able to provide appropriate care and informal friendly relationships help to secure the links between home and the setting. Parents are well informed about the service the childminder provides, for example through informal discussion and the use of information included in a portfolio, however they are not advised of the procedure should they wish to make a complaint about the setting.

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 the most of the regulations and requirements set out in the national standards. However, she has failed to notify Ofsted of significant changes to her family circumstances, which compromises children's safety regarding their access to unvetted people living in the household.

The childminder has attended relevant training and has many years experience of looking after young children. She provides satisfactory care promoting positives 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

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the record of attendance includes the full names of children and the signatures of parents. Children's full names are now recorded on individual pages and signatures of the parents obtained, contributing to ensuring children's safety.

She was also asked to ensure an emergency evacuation procedure is in place and that parents and children are made aware of it. The childminder has considered the procedure should emergency evacuation be necessary, although has not formally discussed this with parents and children, or provided children with an opportunity to practice this, which compromises their safety should an emergency situation arise.

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

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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 the procedures for recording the administration of all medication and ensure records include children's full names and maintain confidentiality
- ensure Ofsted is notified of all significant changes as outlined in the National Standards
- develop a system to investigate and record details of any complaints, making the details available to parents

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk