



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	151058
Inspection date	25 July 2006
Inspector	Lynn Reeves
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 1998. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in a residential area of Emsworth in Hampshire. The property is within close proximity to schools, shops and parks. The childminder is registered to provide care for five children under eight years. At present, she cares for four children on a part and full time basis. The ground floor is used for childminding with access to a toilet. Sleeping facilities are available upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play and there are family cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn about their own personal hygiene through daily routines, for example they wash their hands prior to eating, after playing in the garden, after toileting and after stroking the

cats. Children are protected from the spread of infection through the effective procedures and practices the childminder has in place. The premises are kept very clean, surfaces are wiped prior to the serving of food and the childminder uses disposable gloves for nappy changing. Children's health is very well protected by the procedures in place for administering medication, dealing with injuries and recording all accidents. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of sun awareness and ensures the children have their sun cream on and wear their hats before playing outside. Younger children are able to sleep and rest according to their needs and baby monitors are used to ensure their safety. The childminder ensures children are out in the fresh air each day so they experience and enjoy a range of outdoor activities which aids their physical development. For example, they have access to an outdoor garden that has a range of large equipment, including a slide, push along and ride on toys, ball pit, footballs and an outdoor snooker table. They visit the local play park and go on walks around the local area visiting the shops, shoreline and places of interest. Children are provided with a very good range of healthy snacks and meals; consisting of fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, pasta, rice and potato's. Baby food supplied by the parents is suitably stored in the fridge and children have access to drinks throughout the time they are in the childminders care, which ensures they do not go thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a comfortable environment where they can move freely and in safety around the allotted areas. Children are kept well supervised and the childminder ensures their choice of toys are suitable and appropriate for their age and stage of development. These are stored at low level to encourage children's independence. The childminder carries out a risk assessment of all areas children have access to and regularly cleans and checks the toys for safety. Safety equipment such as socket covers, a fire guard, stair gates and bolts on the garden gates ensures children are fully protected from harm. Suitable smoke detectors, fire blanket and written fire procedures are in place, although fire evacuations are not practised with the children and no log is maintained, this compromises the safety of children. Children learn how to stay safe as they are reminded not to climb on the furniture and to pick things up from the floor in case others fall over. They discuss road safety issues when out walking, always hold onto the buggy and walk on the inside. Children are well protected through the childminders clear understanding of child protection and her responsibilities. Her responsibility to protect the children in her care is shared with parents and systems in place ensure any pre-existing injuries children may come in with are recorded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children access a relaxed, home-from-home environment, which meets their individual needs and makes them feel secure, happy, settled and well cared for. Children relate well to the childminder, they enjoy her company as she takes an interest in what they are doing. For example, naming the characters of the trains and encouraging the babies to make the animal noises as they play with the puzzles. Routines are organised around babies sleep patterns and their needs are fully supported as the childminder gets to know them individually, knowing

when they need cuddles, rest or stimulation. She interacts with the children well, which extends their learning, sustains their interests and supports them in developing new skills. The childminder praises children's achievements which raises their confidence and self-esteem. Children enjoy what they are doing and have fun. One child plays with the train tracks in the hallway, he uses his imagination stopping the trains at the stations and singing to himself as he plays and another uses the play mobile phone to ring and talk to daddy. They enjoy colouring, making jigsaw puzzles and playing in the garden on the go-cart and ride-on-toys. Children have regular opportunities to look at books, sing songs and familiar nursery rhymes, and play with role-play resources. Children participate in cooking activities, messy play using play-dough, paints and water and make collages from materials collected at the woods or along the beach.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual care needs are met because the childminder takes the time to get to know what they are. She obtains information from parents when they enrol their children, verbal handovers, open house policy and the good settling in procedures help to ensure children's needs are met and supported as all children are treated as individuals. Children develop confidence as they make their own choices of activities they engage in. All children have equal access to the range of toys and play materials available. Children learn about the wider world as they play with a wide range of resources that reflect diversity, for example, ethnic figures, puzzles, books and dressing up clothes. They try different foods such as pasta, curries, stir-fry, naan and pitta breads. They celebrate festivals, such as Chinese New Year, Diwali and visit the local church for the Harvest festival.

The childminder maintains a very positive approach for caring for children with special needs and would discuss any issue with the parent to ensure they were fully included into the setting.

Children's behaviour is very good because they know exactly what is expected of them. Children are well settled, they help to tidy things away and are constantly praised and encouraged. The childminder focuses on the positive to boost their confidence effectively. Children receive reward stickers to encourage potty training and toileting, being helpful, sharing and being kind which promotes their self-esteem. Children feel valued because the childminder takes an interest in them and takes the time to listen to what they have to say.

Children benefit from the good relationship the childminder establishes with parents. She obtains information from them about their child's needs and respects their wishes with the care she provides, which contributes significantly to children's well-being. The childminder discusses with them the operational procedures of the setting which helps ensure their child's transition from home to the childminders is smooth. Information is shared at collection time and via the daily diaries regarding children's daily routines. Parents are informed of the procedures they should follow if they have a complaint and the childminder has a good knowledge of the procedures she should follow if a parent makes a formal complaint direct to her.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who is suitably qualified and experienced. Most procedures and practices in place contribute to children's health, safety and well-being, although the daily registers have relevant information missing. The childminder provides a friendly environment where children feel at home and at ease. Indoor play space is laid out to maximise children's play opportunities. Parents are welcomed into the home and kept well informed of the care provided for their children. Documentation that requires parental permission is sought for all children. The childminder is aware that the information she holds about children is confidential so is careful to keep it safe. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to organise play resources in the hallway to make them more accessible and interesting to children and request written permission from parents to apply sun cream.

Children are provided with a good range of colourful and stimulating play provisions, which are displayed on low shelving in the dining room or laid out on the floor in the lounge, which enable children to make choices and become independent. Written permission has been sought from parents to apply sun cream. These procedures ensure the care and well-being of the children are fully supported.

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):

- practise the procedure in place for evacuating the premises in the event of fire to ensure children can exit safely and introduce a fire log book to record when these are completed

- ensure the daily registers are maintained with children's arrival and departure times.

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