



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 155469 |
| Inspection date | 04 September 2006 |
| Inspector | Christine Clint |
| 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 registered in 2001. She lives with her son who attends school. The family home is a bungalow situated in Felpham, within walking distance of schools, shops and parks. Minded children have access to most of the living areas in the house, with a dedicated play room, a smaller play room and an adjacent toilet. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play and a secure, smaller patio outside the kitchen, which children can freely access.

Children are cared for on a part time basis, because the childminder is also registered to provide sessional care for pre-school children on the premises. There are two children currently being cared for, they attend during the holidays and after school.

The childminder has a level 3 National Vocational Qualification in child care and education; she is a member of the National Childminding Association and has a current certificate in first aid training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children move around freely in a clean and well organised home, with ample clear floor space. They have easy access to the ground floor toilet, which has a high and low sink and children can use this independently. Children's nappies are sometimes changed here or in the small room next door; the childminder follows hygienic procedures for nappy changing.

Children spend a good deal of time outside in the fresh air; the childminder has recently moved the garden shed to create a secure play area adjacent to the back door. The area is newly surfaced and swept before the children arrive; they are encouraged to take all their activities out into this area. The outside sand tray is above the ground and has a tray of toys on top to prevent any contamination.

Children are reminded to wash their hands before snack time and the childminder thoroughly wipes younger children's hands when they are in the highchair. She recognises when they are tired and need to have their snack immediately. Children enjoy different fruit that the childminder prepares for them, they like to use forks to eat the cut up fruit, they chat sociably at the table and help to feed the youngest child.

Children have all their meals with the childminder's family, she likes to offer a whole range of food and uses fresh ingredients as much as possible.

Children's routines for sleeping are fully organised in advance with parents. Younger children are gently settled in pushchairs and the childminder shows concern for their comfort and reminds older children not to wake them.

Children's health is clearly promoted through the efficient and well documented procedures for accidents, for administering medication and the organised permission from parents for emergency treatment. The childminder has maintained her first aid training and has several first aid kits in the home and in the car. She provides information for parents about the incubation and exclusion times of common illnesses.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are entirely safe in spacious accommodation with ample light and ventilation. They freely use the rooms that are dedicated to their care and there are stair gates to prevent them from entering other rooms. Children choose where to play and they know where to find play equipment, they ask for certain play resources and the childminder finds these from the toys stored in the garage.

Children have a wide choice of very appropriate resources in the play room, in the smaller room and outside. The play equipment is well organised and stored around the sides of the play room for easy access; many items are in labelled boxes. Children use small tables and chairs which

can be moved to any area of the home or on the patio outside. They often share the use of the pre-school resource boxes that are regularly borrowed from the local authority.

Children play in the whole garden at times and use the larger play apparatus on the lawn; they sometimes have bikes on the patio, although this area currently contains some paving slabs that are precariously stacked.

Children are supervised continually and reminded of safety when they are playing. They are asked not to put dressing up clothes too tightly around the neck of the youngest child, the childminder swiftly alters the length of the hand bag strap, to prevent the youngest child from tripping.

Children's safety, in case of emergency evacuation from the premises is planned and documented; it is well displayed in the entrance hall, with a large poster about fire safety. There is a fire blanket and a mains wired smoke alarm in place.

Children enjoy very frequent outings and written permission from parents is recorded on their individual contracts. Children eagerly talk about the places they have enjoyed and the childminder shows a sensible awareness of avoiding anywhere she considers unsafe or difficult to manage.

Children's welfare is clearly understood by the childminder. She has attended several different training sessions for child protection, she provides written information for parents and explains why she records injuries that children have on arrival. She has up to date procedures and would not hesitate to pass on information if she has concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive happily, they immediately collect toys from the play room and push the doll's buggy around. They begin to play in the large playroom and ask for particular dressing up clothes, they dress up as a policeman and a bride and they push the buggy. The older children dress the youngest child in a nurse's uniform and he walks around proudly carrying a play torch. The older children chat continually and the youngest runs happily through the house. The childminder removes the stair gate at the kitchen entrance to make it easier.

Children spend a long time with paper, scissors and glue outside. The childminder organises small tables and chairs for them and sets up the equipment, she encourages them to help and she sits with them to ensure that they manage the scissors. They talk about making 'thunderbird' models and she asks them to think about what they can use to make something stick together. Children are encouraged to think for themselves and work out what to do. They are praised for doing well and the childminder shows the youngest child how to hold the scissors with her and how to practice with a pencil.

Children fully enjoy having friends around to play every week, they are encouraged to socialise and often meet up with friends and family in local parks and on the beach. They often visit

places of interest and the children remember the outings, they talk about going to the fair on the sea front.

Older children set up a tea party while the youngest child is asleep, they talk about what they are planning to eat for their tea party, they sit with the childminder and tell her what food they have. They name the vegetables and the play food available; they plan to get some more out later because they have run out of space.

Children ask if they can wash the tea things outside and the childminder organises a bowl on the patio, they help to fill it with water from the outside tap. Children are warm in the sun and wear hats as the sun gets hotter.

Children are fully considered at all times and the childminder provides attention continually, she shows concern and affection to meet children's individual needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about equality, because the childminder keenly avoids play equipment which includes stereotypes of gender, race or religion. She provides a written equal opportunities policy and often shares the multi-cultural resources from the pre-school with the minded children.

Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome to attend regardless of ability and the childminder provides a flexible approach. She has an appropriate understanding of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Children play well together, they are happy and occupied and the oldest children become engrossed in their tea party when the youngest is asleep. The childminder is conscious that children have spent a lot of time in each other's company and that there is sometimes a clash of personalities. She intervenes subtly to give attention to both children and to extend their play, to distract them from the situation. Children are reminded of the routines for tidying up and hand washing; there are few direct house rules because the home is so well organised for child care throughout.

Children readily say goodbye to their parents when they first arrive; they are happy and settled in the provision, because all arrangements for their care are fully organised and there is a good level of communication. Parents say that they are entirely satisfied with the care the childminder provides.

The childminder has a portfolio for parents, which contains information about herself, the aims of her child care and a diary of weekly events and routines. New parents can visit before children attend, they read the information pack and can ask questions, they can contact again with any further questions.

All parents have contracts for their child care, they can read the written policies and procedures on place and raise any complaints which will then be recorded and available for any parents to read.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is competently organised and the home is fully prepared for children of all ages to attend. The childminder has proof of her clearances to show to parents in her portfolio, which also contains certificates for child care qualifications, first aid and health and safety. She shows a total dedication to supervising children at all times and is aware of informing Ofsted of any changes within the household.

The registration certificate is displayed and the childminder has requested a variation to the ages of children on the childminding registration, as her own child now attends school.

Children's daily attendance is recorded. The childminder has a strong knowledge of child development and is aware of how children learn through play. She encourages children to progress by being involved in their activities and by using open ended questions that enable children to think for themselves. She continually keeps up to date with regulations for child care and has close links with the early years network locally through running the preschool. 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 ensure that parents had signed to give permission for children to be taken for emergency medical treatment, this is now fully in place.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- remove the stacked paving slabs in the garden

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