



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111303
Inspection date	12 September 2006
Inspector	Michelle Ann Parham
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1997. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for two children on a part-time basis. The childminder lives with her husband and two children. They live in a house in a residential area of Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire. Local shops, Stokes Bay beach, community park and Marycourt School are within walking distance of the home. The childminder also picks up children from Newtown Junior School. All areas of the property can be accessed by the children; however, it is working practice that the children access the first floor through invitation only. There is an enclosed garden area available which is used for outside play. The family have two cats and the childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a clean and comfortable environment. Their health is promoted as the childminder encourages them to follow good hygiene procedures, such as washing hands after outside play, touching the family pets, using the toilet and before meals and cooking activities. There is a ground floor toilet which the children can access independently and which encourages independence and responsibility. Also, children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are infectious. These measures help the children gain an increased understanding of good health and hygiene and prevent cross contamination. Children are cared for appropriately if an accident occurs, as there is a well maintained first aid kit in place and the childminder has a current first aid qualification. However, the childminder has not obtained written consent from parents to seek emergency medical treatment, which does not fully promote children's good health in the event of an emergency.

Children enjoy daily fresh air and exercise in the rear garden or as they walk or cycle from Newtown Junior School. They enjoy use of the trampoline which has an enclosure, footballs and in good weather the swimming pool, which is directly monitored by the childminder, in the garden. Children also benefit from outings to local community parks, Stokes Bay beach, the cinema and Staunton and Moors Valley Country Parks in school holiday periods. These physical play opportunities and outings promote children's overall fitness and extend their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Children have their individual needs met, because the childminder has documentation in place to ensure she is aware of their routines and individual health and dietary requirements. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals as the childminder provides wholesome home cooked foods such as lasagne with vegetables, spaghetti Bolognese or sausages, boiled potatoes, peas and broad beans. Children also enjoy healthy snacks of fresh fruit, home made cakes and regular drinks of fresh water. As a result, children are well nourished at the setting, which prevents them from becoming tired and de-hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure within the setting, as the front door and entrance to the garden are locked and a safety chain is used when required. Children's safety is not fully promoted as a number of hazards have been identified in regard to storage of chemicals in the kitchen and large wooden poles, scaffolding planks and ladders in the rear garden. Other safety precautions are in place, such as electric sockets inaccessible to children, a safety net used for the trampoline, direct supervision of children in the swimming pool and a safety cover and wooden gate used to ensure inaccessibility for younger children to the pond. Children are protected as effective procedures are in place for the collection of children and arrangements are agreed beforehand with parents.

Children are able to use equipment and the environment safely as furniture and resources are maintained and conform to safety standards. Toys are well organised and in good condition, which ensures they are suitable for use and do not present a hazard to children. Children are gaining an increased understanding of road safety, as they walk or cycle home from school with the childminder. She talks to them clearly about road safety, not talking to strangers, not answering the door and not leaving with anyone else after school. Children's welfare is maintained, as the childminder has awareness of signs and symptoms that could cause concern and of the relevant agency to contact in regard to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are becoming skilful communicators because the childminder has good interpersonal skills. She interacts extremely well with them taking an interest in discussing their school day and helping them with their homework, such as listening to reading. Children are becoming competent learners because they have a good selection of varied play resources and interesting activities that provide fun and stimulation, such as baking rock cakes and making their own pizza. Play resources are stored low level in the dedicate playroom; subsequently, children are able to initiate their own choice of play, which develops responsibility and independence. Children enjoy exploring their imagination as they pretend play airports, dress up or use the small world toys. They have opportunity to express creativity as there are a good range of art and craft resources. Children are encouraged to think and given lots of opportunity for discussion as the childminder uses effective questioning, which extends their learning. For example, as they look at the reading book about Blue Whales, then discuss endangered animals and recollect outings they have been on to Marwell and Monkey World.

Children are happy in the home with the childminder and her family. They arrive without upset and happily join in and interact well. They enjoy the company of the childminder and participate fully in play and discussion, confidently telling the childcare inspector how they like to go on the trampoline or play airports in the garden. This evidences how they feel secure, happy and relaxed at the setting. The childminder knows the children well; she develops warm and trusting relationships with them and provides care and learning opportunities which promote development and are interesting to the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive continuity and an appropriate care package, because the childminder uses child information records. Subsequently, she is aware of their personal needs. All children are welcomed and treated as individuals, as the childminder has an appropriate understanding of equal opportunities and awareness of children with additional requirements. Children learn about the wider world through resources that reflect positive images such as books, small world figures and dolls.

Children behave well in the setting, because the childminder uses positive techniques such as stickers for reward for younger children, discussion, distraction, praise and encouragement and

time out if required. This helps the children learn about acceptable behaviour and right from wrong. All techniques are appropriate for the understanding of the child.

Children benefit from satisfactory partnership with the parents. For example, the parents are welcomed into the home to discuss the day's events and there is a portfolio in place outlining policies and working practices. Daily diaries are used for preschool children to ensure good channels of communication and help parents have an insight into their child's day. However, the certificate of registration is not currently displayed for parents to see whilst actively childminding and the complaints log is not in a format for parents to view on request, which does not fully promote working in partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an organised home where they are happy, relaxed and comfortable. Their health and well-being is generally promoted because most required documentation is in place, maintained and shared with parents, with some improvement required in regard to the complaints log, certificate of registration and written consent from parents. Children benefit from a secure and stimulating environment, where they are protected by sound procedures which are implemented effectively by the childminder. However, weaknesses have been identified with aspects of safety in the home and garden area. Children are occupied at the setting, as the childminder organises her time, activities and resources appropriately. She has an understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process and overall maintains standards. 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 required to ensure the record of attendance is fully maintained and the safety of children in regard to accessibility to electric sockets.

The record of attendance is now fully maintained with the required details and electric sockets at child height are now fitted with covers, which ensures they cannot be accessed. These measures have a positive impact on the safety of children and the organisation of the setting.

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 satisfactory. 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 safety of children in regard to large wooden poles, scaffolding planks and ladders in the rear garden and chemicals in the kitchen
- ensure complaints log is in a format for parents to view on request and display certificate of registration when actively childminding
- obtain written permission for emergency medical treatment.

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