



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111913
Inspection date	13 June 2006
Inspector	Alison Large

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 was registered in 1991. She lives with her three adult children in the Fareham area of Hampshire. All areas of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day and seven children over five before and after school.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have a dog, three cats and guinea pigs.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene and personal care. The childminder implements effective hygiene procedures such as when cleaning the tables between activities and nappy changing routines, minimising the risk of infection. Children learn about health and hygiene and how to look after themselves, through their daily routines, including hand washing before snack and after toileting. The childminder's support and guidance helps children become increasingly independent in their own personal care. Children's health is well promoted as the childminder has relevant first aid training and has all the required documentation including accident and medication records up to date and signed by the parents.

Children develop a good understanding of healthy eating as they are offered a variety of different fruits at snack time. They are provided with a range of healthy and nutritious snacks and meals and the childminder works with parents to meet each child's dietary need, ensuring the children stay healthy. Drinks are available throughout the day to ensure the children remain hydrated.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They have opportunities to engage in activities including trips to the park, garden games and daily walks. Children can access a range of outdoor equipment including wheeled toys, tent, tunnel and balls, and learn to negotiate space and develop increasing control and co-ordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a bright, spacious environment. The playroom is well laid out with resources stored accessibly to allow children to move around safely. The childminder is vigilant about children's safety, she pays high attention to ensuring risks and hazards are minimised and children's safety is well promoted. The emergency evacuation procedure has been talked about and practised, to ensure children are aware of what to do should there be an emergency. Children are well supervised at all times, including when they are outdoors or on a trip.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of child protection issues and she recognises her roles and responsibilities. The childminder has all the required documents in place and gives top priority to ensuring the children's welfare is safeguarded.

Children benefit enormously from the exceptional, vibrant, play environment. Children are able to independently select activities from an abundant range of high quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. Excellent procedures are in place to make sure equipment is safe and kept well maintained. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the children's choice of toys to make sure they are appropriate to the age and stage of the children's development.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The children build excellent relationships with the childminder and arrive confidently and settle well. The childminder knows the children well and talks to them about their family and what they have been doing at home. This interaction helps the children develop a strong sense of trust and secures their relationship with the childminder. The children enjoy the childminder's company and engage in conversation with her, she joins in their play, encouraging their social skills.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and develop their independence by being able to access an exciting and stimulating range of resources. Children enjoy opportunities to express their imagination through role-play, they share stories and participate enthusiastically, which contributes to their developing communication skills. The childminder recognises the value of play in a child's development and introduces a range of experiences, enabling children to play together as well as independently. Older children are able to enjoy different activities from the younger children and which are more suited to their developmental stages, which ensures their needs are met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed into the childminder's home and play a full part in their day, because the childminder values each child as an individual. Children are confident and show good self esteem, responding well to the praise and encouragement they receive. Children are able to learn about themselves and the wider world through a range of planned activities and discussions, for example learning about various cultural festivals and about disabilities. This helps them to understand and value the similarities and differences between themselves and others. The childminder has cared for children with special needs and ensures they are able to take part in activities.

Behaviour is exceptional and children show high levels of independence, confidence and self esteem as the childminder praises and values their achievements. The childminder manages behaviour calmly and effectively ensuring clear boundaries are in place. The childminder takes each child's age and understanding into account, thus developing children's confidence. An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to the children's well being whilst at the childminder's. Highly effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents and they work together to meet the children's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment, which means they are able to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The children's care is enhanced by the efficient quality of organisation of the childminder, with indoor space laid out to maximise the play opportunities

for children. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child development, but has not yet started making full use of the Birth to three framework, which helps children develop high levels of competence in the early stages of their learning. All the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, stored confidentially and regularly reviewed.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the accuracy of the daily register; keep a written record, signed by parents of medicines given to children; and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice and treatment. The childminder has now put all these recommendations in place, which has ensured the children's health and well-being is fully protected.

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):

- continue to develop an understanding of the needs of children under three, using the Birth to three matters framework.

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