



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112507
Inspection date	19 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 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 2000. She lives with her school aged children in a residential area of Horndean in Hampshire. The childminder is registered to provide care for four children aged under eight years and is currently minding two children on a part and full time basis. The property is within close proximity to local schools, shops and parks. The ground floor is used for childminding with access to an upstairs bathroom. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn how to stay healthy as they are reminded to wash their hands before eating and after toileting. The childminder ensures that worktops, floors and toys are kept clean to prevent

the spread of germs. Procedures are in place to prevent cross infection as baby equipment, such as, high chair, comfy blanket and babies floor mat are cleaned regularly. Children develop a healthy lifestyle as they regularly access the garden and benefit from fresh air and gentle exercise when they walk to the park and play on the swings and slide. They develop their large muscle control as they jump on the trampoline, ride the sit-on-toys, kick footballs, ride scooters and use skipping ropes.

Children's dietary needs are met because the childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating and provides children with fresh fruit and healthy options in addition to meals sent in from home. Children's dietary needs, their likes and dislikes are discussed with parents and then recorded on children's records to ensure parents' wishes are respected. Children are protected as there are good procedures in place for the administration of medication, seeking emergency medical treatment and the recording of any accidents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children access a clean and comfortable environment where they are able to move about freely and in safety as most risks have been minimised. Children are provided with a very good range of colourful and vibrant toys and play provisions, which are displayed on the floor or in storage boxes to encourage children to make their own choices. These are suitable for their age and stage of development and checked regularly for damage and cleanliness to ensure children's safety. Children learn how to stay safe through reminders, for example not to run around indoors in case they fall over and they discuss road safety, car safety and danger stranger when outdoors. Children are kept under close supervision, procedures are in place for checking on sleeping babies, although, there is no written parental permission for children to use the trampoline. The childminder has a sound understanding the child protection procedures, enabling her to assist in protecting children from the risk of harm or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the well organised, broad range of resources and daily activities they are provided with. The childminder knows the children well and is aware of their individual stage of development and interests. Children benefit from the warm relationship they have with the childminder and enjoy sitting alongside her for a cuddle. Children are provided with a good range of stimulating activities, for example, they participate in singing and dancing, messy play, reading books, using the play-station, completing puzzles and using their imagination in role-play. Children are able to move freely around the home and select things they want to play with from toys that are displayed at low level. Children enjoy the childminder joining in with their play, for example, as she plays peek-a-boo with the baby. Familiar cuddly toys and musical resources are provided to keep them stimulated and interested. For example the baby enjoys mimicking the dance movement of the musical monkey. The childminder sits down with the baby and pretends to take her picture on the toy camera, allowing the baby to push the buttons and clapping their hands as the voice says smile. Children receive cuddles, praise and encouragement developing their self-esteem and sense of belonging. Children's social interaction

is developed as they meet with other childminders and their children and attend the local drop-in centre.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to show an understanding of the world around them, through practical activities and playing with resources that reflect diversity, for example with puzzles, books and ethnic figures. Children learn about the local environment when they go for walks in the woods, along the beach and visit places of interest, for example, Petersfield Lake and Staunton Country Park. The childminder maintains a positive approach to caring for children with special needs. Children learn the boundaries of behaviour as they are reminded of the house rules, for example, to share, be kind to each other and take turns. Strategies used are discussed with parents to ensure a consistent approach. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents during arrival and collection time, regarding their sleeping, eating, toileting and daily routines. The childminder has received several letters of compliments from parents that have used her services and have highlighted how happy they are with the services that she has provided and the flexible approach she maintains with her business.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a friendly environment where children feel at home and at ease. Children are kept under close supervision and the organisation of space ensures children are able to move around freely and safely. Children can access toys independently and remain occupied with many play opportunities and receive lots of care and attention. Most documentation is in place, however, relevant information is missing from the daily registers. Paperwork is stored securely to maintain confidentiality. 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 a range of toys and activities are provided in order to meet the development needs of all children and that these promote positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability. Children are now provided with a very good range of colourful, vibrant and stimulating resources, these also include resources that reflect diversity, which meet their individual needs. The childminder was also asked to ensure that an emergency evacuation procedure is in place and to obtain parental consent for children to be transported in the car. Since the last inspection the childminder has introduced a fire procedure and practises fire drills with the children. She has obtained the required consent for transporting children in her car. These procedures ensure the safety and well-being of the children in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Care Standard 6 (Safety). The complaint related to children's safety when being transported in a car. An

unannounced visit was conducted in March 2006. Following the visit a recommendation was made to improve childminding services further. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents regarding the children's use of the trampoline
- maintain the daily registers with children's actual times of arrival and departures.

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