



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112984
Inspection date	02 October 2006
Inspector	Catherine Hill
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 was registered in 1987. She lives with her husband and grown up daughter in a detached house in a residential road in Farnborough. Minded children use the whole of the ground floor, including a playroom and toilet facilities. The family have four cats and keep fish in an indoor tank. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five years and four school age children under eight years, all on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children remain healthy because the childminder has appropriate policies to prevent the spread of infection. She has a written sickness policy and children play within a clean environment as

the childminder cleans her home daily. Children receive appropriate care if they have minor accidents as the childminder has a current first aid certificate. She maintains appropriate accident records and details of medication given together with the necessary consents, although not all records are accurately maintained. Children have adequate opportunities to develop their physical skills as the childminder takes them on walks and they move freely around the minding area. They have their dietary needs met because the childminder works with parents to meet the individual needs of each child. They show independence as they feed themselves and attend to personal hygiene. They are not, however, encouraged to wash their hands before eating and the childminder does not wipe down the table before children sit down to eat.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play quietly within the designated playroom. They move freely to access floor puzzles and small world toys and independently sit in an armchair to look at a comic. Resources are available to support children's learning although they are not all easily accessible to young children. For example, books are too high up for some children to freely select themselves. Children play within a safe environment where the childminder has identified and minimized risks. A safety gate, for example, ensures children do not access the stairs and the childminder takes children out to the park for outdoor play as she is not using the garden at present while waiting for work to be carried out in it. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder understands her responsibilities with regard to child protection and she has a written policy to support her practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and occupy themselves exploring the toys the childminder sets out for them. They play with small world toys and show an interest in what is happening around them. They concentrate well to complete peg pictures and readily ask the childminder for support when needed. The childminder provides a calm atmosphere for children and talks gently to them but sometimes fails to value children's efforts and acknowledge that she has been listening to them. Children develop their social skills as they interact with other minded children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal concern by the childminder who learns about their individual needs through playing with them and talking to them. They learn to share when playing with toys together and develop an understanding of right from wrong during discussion with the childminder. The childminder has a written equal opportunities policy and a range of resources to help develop children's awareness of diversity within society although these resources are not freely accessible during daily play. Children behave well in the childminder's care and daily discussion with parents ensures they are kept informed about their child's minded day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are content within the homely environment the childminder provides for them. They have access to opportunities to develop their skills through play although access to a wide range of stimulating resources and activities is limited. The childminder is kind and caring and is proactive in attending training to further her knowledge and skills. She has a good range of written policies to support her practice although has yet to update her complaints procedure to reflect the 2005 amendments to the National Standards and does not clearly display her registration certificate for parents to easily view. Children's attendance records are regularly updated although some lack a little detail. She organises her time so children have opportunities for play, rest and refreshment and overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has improved her documentation to ensure that consents are in place for the administration of medication and the seeking of emergency advice or treatment. Consents for transporting children in a vehicle are in place together with most written agreements setting out the expectations of both parties to the care of the child and business arrangements.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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.

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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):

- reinforce good hygiene practice by ensuring tables are cleaned before children sit down to eat and by encouraging children to wash their hands before eating
- develop existing knowledge of how to promote children's learning and development, for example with reference to the Birth to three matters framework

- improve documentation by: maintaining attendance records in ink which clearly show children's full names and parental confirmation of minded hours; ensuring all medication and accident records are completed accurately
- ensure the registration certificate is clearly displayed during minding hours.
- provide children with increased opportunities to further develop their learning through free access to a wide range of stimulating resources, including those reflecting diversity within our society
- update the complaints procedure to show Ofsted's current address and to reflect the 2005 amendments to the National Standards relating to complaints.

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