



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113192
Inspection date	04 September 2006
Inspector	Alison Jane Williams
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 has been a registered since 1996 and she is a member of the NCMA Quality First Network. She lives with her husband and two teenage children. They live in a four bedroom, detached property in the village of Purbrook, near Waterlooville, close to local shops, schools and the park.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding four children between the ages of 19 months and four years old, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. Registration does not include overnight care.

The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have pet cats. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local toddler groups on a regular basis and takes children to the park and the library.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of energetic physical activities, which contribute to their good health and physical development. They have daily opportunities to exercise and play outside to help them gain a knowledge and awareness of their own bodies and build up confidence in themselves. They have access to enclosed garden with a varied range of equipment such as a swing, slide, push along and ride on toys, which help to develop their large muscle control. Children benefit from a variety of physical play opportunities, with regular walks to the park and toddler groups and outings to various local places of interest.

Children are cared for in a warm, comfortable, very clean home. They are developing personal independence and self-care skills well. For example, they wash their hands at appropriate times and use the toilet and potty independently. They complete a 'Healthy Habits Chart' showing when they wash their hands, brush their teeth, eat healthy food and do exercise. They know you need to do exercise to stay healthy and you need to eat healthily to keep your body working properly. Their individual dietary requirements are met by agreed arrangements between the childminder and parents for providing food and drinks. They are offered drinks throughout the day and their cups and beakers are kept within easy reach so they can access them freely. The childminder provides a range of healthy snacks such as fresh fruit and breadsticks and children pick, wash and eat plums, apples and grapes from her garden. Children are developing a clear understanding about maintaining a healthy lifestyle through daily routines and discussions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very safe and secure because the childminder is vigilant. She recognises potential hazards and addresses them immediately. For example, all cleaning materials are stored safely out of the reach of children, a safety gate is in place to prevent access to the stairs and all plug sockets have been covered, helping to protect children. Children are safe when taken on outings. Car seats are suitable for the ages of all children and the childminder checks seatbelts and safety restraints are securely fastened before every journey. Children are safe because clear arrival and collection procedures are in place. Parents are required to come into the house to drop off and pick their children up. They can only be collected by adults named in the contact. If any other person is going to collect them parents are asked to confirm this in writing. The childminder requests they also provide identification on collection so she can confirm who they are, fully protecting the children in her care. Children feel safe and settle very well because of the high levels of supervision and support they receive from the childminder and are able to access all toys and play materials freely and safely. They learn how to keep themselves safe. The childminder discusses and explains potential risks, such as hot drinks and teaches them about road safety. They practise fire drills and learn how to evacuate the premises safely. Children are fully protected because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and would recognise the possible signs of abuse. They learn about their bodies and that they have the right to privacy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children have many and varied opportunities to develop a range of skills and progress extremely well in all areas in an exciting, creative and stimulating environment. They listen attentively and respond with enjoyment to stories, songs and music. They have fun acting out imaginary situations using dressing up clothes and props. They role play packing their bags to go on holiday, travelling to Florida on a plane and taking a trip to London on a bus. The childminder has a clear understanding of the developmental needs of children and this enables her to differentiate the activities effectively, ensuring all the children can participate fully. For example, when children explore and manipulate play dough. Younger children use their hands to squeeze, shape and mould the play dough; while older children use tools to make different shapes. Children are extremely happy, confident and well settled in the childminder's care. They move around freely and make themselves at home, helping themselves to toys and play materials in the well organised home. The childminder encourages their independence well, she uses open ended questions, discussion and relevant reference books to effectively extend children's learning and understanding. Children are all interested and involved in the excellent range of stimulating and fun activities provided.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and interact well with other children and adults. They develop their understanding of others and learn to socialise with their peers through regular visits to local children's groups. Children are beginning to show concern for one another and they play together well. They take turns to swing on the garden hammock and to go down the slide. They respond positively to praise and encouragement from the childminder. They are familiar with daily routines and are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's home. They visit the bathroom independently and help to tidy away the toys.

Children learn about the local environment through visits to the beach, the park and the library and enjoy outings to places of interest such as Moore Valley Country Park and Paultons Park. During nature walks they pick wild flowers and collect shells and seaweed. They use these natural materials during creative activities to make cards and pictures. They learn about living and growing things as they collect fresh eggs from a local farm and pick fruit and vegetables from the childminder's garden.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She has a good understanding of the 14 National Standards and meets them well. Children's health, safety and well-being is promoted because all the legally required documentation is in place, although the childminder has failed to ensure all members of the household over 16 have been Police checked. The childminder continues to attend training, to ensure her practice is up-to-date. This enhances the opportunities she provides for the children in her care, so they benefit greatly

from her knowledge and experience. They are occupied and engaged with ample play opportunities, as the childminder organises the daily routines exceptionally well. They make their own choices from the wide range of activities available both inside the home and in the garden. Children benefit greatly from the strong links with home. The childminder discusses activities and children's achievements daily with their parents, enabling them to contribute to their child's experiences and work in partnership to promote their welfare and development.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were made to ensure that the record of attendance includes all relevant information and that water butts and wine bottles are inaccessible to children. The daily attendance register is now well-maintained, up-to-date and includes the children's full names and times of arrival and departure. Buckets are no longer used to collect rain water and wine bottles have been moved out of children's reach. This ensures children's safety.

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.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- Ensure all members of the household over 16 have been vetted

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