



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY331743
Inspection date	06 September 2006
Inspector	Carol Patricia Willett

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 2006. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in a house in Sandhurst. The home is situated within walking distance of local amenities including schools preschools parks, library and shops. The ground floor is used for childminding. There are toilet facilities downstairs and an enclosed garden for outside play. The family have a hamster. The childminder may care for a maximum of five children under eight at any one time. She currently cares for six children of which two are over five years. The childminder is a member of the NCMA. She holds a current first aid certificate.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are healthy because the childminder provides a child friendly home which is very well maintained, comfortable and welcoming to children and their parents. Children play and rest in clean and safe areas as the childminder has highly effective hygiene routines and procedures in place which ensures the home, toys and equipment are in a good clean condition. She cleans the house after children leave in the evening. Children develop a very good understanding of personal hygiene. They wash their hands before eating food and when they come in from outside play. The childminder encourages their developing skills as they learn to use the toilet independently. She further develops children's awareness by the placement of notices to remind children to wash their hands. Children use separate coloured towels, which they choose daily to reduce the risk of cross-infection.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of healthy eating and meal times are social occasions where children talk to the childminder and each other. Children's dietary needs are well met as the childminder keeps comprehensive, well organised records and shares daily information about their individual needs. Children enjoy a variety of healthy foods which they freely choose. They enjoy fruit and vegetables for snacks, choosing from grapes and apples, carrots, peas and melon. They learn about healthy options as they help prepare their sandwiches for their lunch. They spread the butter carefully using a suitable knife and choose the filling of ham, cheese or jam and sometimes all of them, with a selection of raw vegetables. They enjoy fruit and yoghurts afterwards, asking for more if they are still hungry. The childminder provides hot, home made meals in the evening which are nutritious and well balanced. The children drink plenty to maintain their health as their water bottles are freely accessible. The childminder helps children to decorate their bottles with cut out pictures of the toys they like of dolls and trains to make drinking water fun.

Children rest according to their needs as the childminder organises her day to include active and quiet times. They have excellent opportunities to experience a wide range of activities to develop their physical skills, enjoy fresh air and promote good health. These include visits to the local park where they develop their skills on the large equipment, toddler groups and soft play areas. They enjoy garden play where they learn to pedal ride on toys. They play with balls, aiming to get their ball through the hoops as they try to play croquet. The childminder joins in with their play supporting and encouraging their developing skills. Children love to dance to the music tapes showing exuberance and rhythm, matching words and actions. They experience a wide range of planned activities, using tools and resources including construction toys, jigsaws, craft, painting and drawing to develop their manipulative skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play happily in a home that is maintained to a good standard and is warm

and comfortable. There is a small, separate playroom which provides a stimulating, bright, colourful environment for the children. The childminder enables children to spend their time purposefully and they are eager to participate and explore. Children play freely and select from the wide range of good quality play materials most of which are kept within easy reach in the playroom. The children freely wander between the play room and dining area. This develops their independence skills. They use suitable, good quality nursery equipment including booster seats to the table and travel cots for sleeping. Children can explore and develop safely with sufficient space to meet their needs as the childminder has organised the environment well. She has a good knowledge of hazards and checks the home and garden before children arrive to ensure their safety, taking good measures to minimise risks, for example, safety gates are in place and sockets are covered. The drain in the garden is uncovered and this could pose a risk to children's health and safety.

Children stay safe as they are carefully supervised throughout the day as the childminder is very safety conscious and attentive. Children learn about keeping themselves safe as the childminder talks about road safety and using resources safely. She explains house rules to the children and talks to them about being careful on the chairs as they may fall and hurt themselves. The children practise fire evacuation so they develop confidence and awareness. The childminder has exceptionally good procedures in place when taking the children out in the car to ensure their safety in an emergency. She carries a card with the contact details of her husband, the children's parents and an emergency backup childminder who holds contact details for all the children in her care.

The childminder has comprehensive documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded. She has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures and she is aware of how to record accident and incident details appropriately. She has appropriate insurance cover in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well with the childminder as she has a caring, attentive manner, using positive language, praise and encouragement. They develop confidence and a sense of belonging as they form close relationships with the childminder. They play well together and are very cooperative, sharing and taking turns using the toys. The childminder has good interactive skills and plays with the children sitting on the floor with them, using good questioning techniques to develop their thinking, understanding and skills. The childminder is very observant of young children's gestures, reacting to them and suggesting activities to meet their interests and needs, for example, she asks the children if they want to listen to music as they start jigging. The childminder informally plans a wide variety of activities which ensures children make good progress and develop in all areas. These are displayed daily on a white board so parents are aware of the day's activities and children like to tick them when they have completed them.

The children particularly enjoy listening to music and nursery rhymes and they are very enthusiastic as they clap their hands, nod their heads and stamp their feet. They listen to the songs and match the actions to words encouraged by the childminder. Children have good opportunities to develop their imagination and creative skills as they enjoy a range of craft activities and they take their pictures home for their parents. They role play with the dolls and cars. The childminder talks to the children constantly responding to their gestures and uses good strategies to develop children's language and communication skills. They develop their vocabulary as they play games and look at books. They enjoy a range of experiences that contribute to their physical development including garden play where they enjoy playing in the sand and games of animal croquet. They enjoy regular walks to the local park where they observe nature as they collect leaves to do painting. The children enjoy their time with the childminder who is interested in their play and supports them well by listening and talking to them. She manages the age range well so all the children are happy and busily occupied.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder works closely with parents, forming good relationships. She discusses useful information about her practices, policies and procedures with them at the initial visit. The childminder provides written daily feedback to share with the parents so they are aware of their children's time at the minder's. There is a good verbal exchange of information on a daily basis. This ensures children are happy, secure and settled as the childminder is aware of and values children's needs and personalities. She provides experiences to meet their needs as she organises music and dance times during the morning, for example, as she knows the children love to dance.

The childminder has a good understanding of issues relating to equal opportunities. She ensures all children freely access the resources and she has sufficient information to meet their individual needs. The childminder learns about the culture and home language of children in her care, learning some of the words and sharing them with all the children. This enables children to develop a good understanding of and positive attitude to differences. Children become aware of their local environment as they walk to school daily. They learn about the local community through regular outings to local facilities such as the park and adventure play area. There is a range of toys and activities provided to promote children's awareness of diversity and the wider world.

The children play cooperatively together and are generally well behaved as the childminder uses positive language and effective behaviour management strategies including distraction well. Methods for managing children's behaviour are appropriate and consistent which enables the children to feel secure in their environment. The childminder ensures the children understand the house rules to keep themselves safe and gives them gentle reminders, for example, not to throw the sand. Children develop confidence and self-esteem. The childminder recognises and praises their achievements and good behaviour when they help pack away toys and complete

activities, such as when they make the train track. She acts as a good role model using please and thank-you when talking to the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises the environment and resources well to enable children's needs to be met. Space is used effectively, indoors and outdoors, to meet all children's needs for food, rest and play and allows children freedom to explore safely. They are able to play and select resources freely to develop their confidence and independence skills. The daily organisation allows for a stimulating variety of experiences and activities. Consequently the children are happy, comfortable, settled and secure.

The childminder maintains a comprehensive range of appropriate documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and welfare. The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of registration. She displays her certificate and records children's attendance. The attendance register does not accurately reflect the attendance of every individual child. The childminder has good experience and skills so the children receive very good support. She is committed to developing her knowledge and skills through ongoing professional training. The childminder has good procedures in place to ensure children are protected from un-vetted persons and she closely supervises children at all times. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 the register accurately reflects the attendance of each individual child
- make sure the drain is inaccessible to the children when playing in the garden in order to maintain their health and safety.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk