



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY294280
Inspection date	15 August 2006
Inspector	Elly Bik-Kuen Wong
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 2004. She lives with her husband and school-aged son under eight years. The family live in the town centre of Eastleigh, Hampshire. The ground floor of the house is the main area for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed back garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to mind five children under eight years, and currently cares for one baby on a very part-time basis during the week.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Young children are cared for in a clean and comfortable environment. Babies have good space for exploring and practising safe movement by crawling, which aids their physical development. This encourages babies to build up their muscle strength and develop their balance and co-ordination. Children's good health is promoted by the childminder's sound hygiene routines to prevent germs and infection. She ensures that areas and surfaces used by children are clean and hygienic. Floors are dusted or hoovered daily to reduce dust-mites which can trigger symptoms for people with asthmatic conditions. The childminder pays attention to washing her hands while caring for children, for example, prior to making up a milk bottle for a baby. She also shows positive understanding about helping children to practise hand washing and teeth brushing for good personal hygiene.

The childminder likes to encourage healthy eating and can supply balanced meals and snacks if required. She respects parents' preference and encourages particularly the parents of babies to supply their own food and drinks. The childminder is pro-active in supporting such parents, by offering information and discussing with them the best way to meet the nutritional needs of their young children. She liaises closely with parents over their children's specific dietary and health requirements, which are recorded to ensure effective care. Babies are provided with regular drinks of milk and water to prevent dehydration and to promote their growth and development. The childminder has suitable experience and skills for looking after children with acute allergies, such as those related to common foods. She has trained in paediatric first aid and is able to protect children affected by accidents and emergencies, though she does not hold a current first aid certificate.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Young children benefit from a light and spacious environment for their play and exploration. Potential hazards have been assessed and reduced to provide a safe space for children's care and play. The childminder is very vigilant in using close supervision to ensure the safety of young children. She shows quick responsiveness towards new situations and any accompanying hazards, for example, when young babies start to become mobile by crawling. The childminder applies reactive risk assessment to meet the changing needs of babies. Furniture is re-arranged quickly to assist their safe movement and exploration in the house. The childminder ensures that these youngest children can assess suitable toys safely on the floor level. Hazardous substances are stored out of their reach, and electric sockets are covered. There are smoke alarms and an emergency fire plan, which the childminder has not yet practised with children; she has only started minding recently and on a very part-time basis.

There is a good range of care equipment suited to the youngest children, for example, buggy, travel cot and high chair. The childminder is vigilant and ensures that small objects are not accessible to the younger children to prevent choking hazards. Doors and windows are kept secure, and children's play and movement within the house and garden is monitored closely.

She accompanies the youngest children indoors and outdoors to ensure their safety. The childminder is aware of the need to update her risk assessment of the house and garden when the youngest children become more mobile by crawling or walking. She shows a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms that may cause concerns, and procedures for protecting children by obtaining relevant advice and referring concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in the welcoming home, where they explore and play with age appropriate toys provided for their stimulation and development. The youngest children benefit from a good selection of brightly coloured baby toys, such as a play mat, soft toys, shape sorters, shakers, and those that make noises to attract their attention. Babies who have recently started crawling are given good encouragement and opportunities to exercise their new mobility in the safe part of the house. They become excited about exploring the house on all fours, and about new experiences of touching interesting objects previously not within their reach, for example, toys used by the older children.

Children show an interest in handling books because the childminder likes to share children's books with them. Babies are thrilled to look at the brightly coloured pictures and to touch and feel the different textures within a cardboard book. The childminder gives good attention to the youngest children and develops their listening and communication skills by talking and interacting with them, for example, by pointing out the names of the objects in the picture book. Babies learn to communicate through facial expressions, gestures and making intelligent noises to indicate their moods such as when they are happy, hungry or tired. The childminder stimulates young children's play and learning with the help of suitable toys, but she does not have the Birth to three matters framework to help her plan and organise meaningful experiences for babies and toddlers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Young children settle well into the homely environment; they have bonded well with the childminder, who is familiar with their needs and likes and dislikes. She has good positive relationships with parents, and works in close partnership to ensure good continuity of care, for example, over young babies' dietary requirements. Parents are made aware of the childminder's policies and practices through discussions. They are also well informed about their young children's progress through verbal communication as well as simple daily dairies.

Babies enjoy their time at the childminder's, and relate well to the older children, who are kind and supportive towards them. This contributes to a happy and relaxed atmosphere, which is conducive to children's enjoyment as they learn through play. The childminder praises and encourages children, so they develop their self-esteem and sense of achievement, for example, when a baby practises her physical skill of crawling. She gives children clear and consistent boundaries to encourage their good behaviour. She uses positive strategies such as explanation to help children learn right from wrong. The childminder shows good understanding about

respecting the culture and preference of individual children and their families. She uses books and discussions to help children understand that they are all different as well as similar. She is keen to share her first hand experiences of different cultures and languages, including those from diverse continents. The childminder has the knowledge and skills for supporting children who have acute dietary and health needs to help them to thrive. All children and families are valued, and treated with equal concern.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall children's individual needs are met well through the childminder's suitable use of space, resources and time. She is suitably trained in childminding and has a qualification in paediatric first aid. However, the childminder does not have a current first aid certificate. The childminder has only commenced childminding recently, and does not have all relevant guidance, such as regarding the Birth to three matters framework and child protection. All required documentation is in place, and is well organised, although the daily register does not show accurately the times of arrival and departure. The childminder has systems in place to record accidents and medicines, as well as written agreements with parents as they become necessary. 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 childminder or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The childminder 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):

- maintain a current first aid certificate so as to ensure that children's welfare is fully safeguarded
- obtain and use the Birth to three matters framework to enhance the planning and organisation of meaningful experiences and activities for babies/toddlers.

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