



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	131043
Inspection date	08 September 2006
Inspector	Shan Gwendoline Jones
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 2000. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in Brighton. The whole ground floor of the house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five all day. All children attend on a part time basis. The family has no pets.

The childminder attends the local toddler group. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Promoting children's good health are a high priority for the childminder, they enjoy balanced, healthy snacks. Children's allergies and dietary requirements are met, taking into account their individual food preferences. Children are offered frequent drinks throughout the day, for example water or juice.

The childminder sustains good levels of hygiene throughout her home. They are developing self-care skills as they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Children are encouraged to brush their teeth after meals through the provision of toothbrushes by parents. Good policies and procedures are in place for first aid, accidents, sickness and medication which ensures children are well cared for. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and has also attended meningitis awareness training, which further safeguards children's welfare.

There is a free flow of activities between indoor and outdoor play. Children relish the exercise outdoors in the fresh air everyday as they climb, rock on the see-saw, slide, run and have fun in the garden. Organised outings to the local drop-in groups and parks help to support their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being in a welcoming and safe family home. The safety of children is given high priority by the childminder. She makes sure that all obvious hazards are eliminated from her home. This ensures that children are able to move around unhindered and independently. Fire precautions, such as smoke alarms and a fire blanket, are in place and a detailed emergency escape plan has been written to ensure children's safe and rapid evacuation. Children are learning to take responsibility for their own safety as the childminder teaches them how to cross the road safely.

Children's independence is fostered well, as they are able to self-select what they wish to play with from the vast range of toys and equipment available for them. As well as being fun to use, the toys also encourage progress in all areas of development. She monitors and supervises the choices the younger children make to ensure that they are appropriate and safe.

Children's welfare is also safeguarded by the childminder's sound knowledge and understanding of child protection matters. She knows the signs and symptoms a child may exhibit that could indicate they were being harmed and the procedure to follow to report such concerns. However, a separate recording system for recording serious concerns and incidents is not in place.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy themselves and are motivated to develop extremely well in the child-centred environment. They are busy and engaged both in self chosen and adult led activities.

Younger children benefit from a highly nurturing, supportive and caring environment which, allows them to enjoy a very good range of first-hand experiences. The daily routine ensures that children have a familiar and consistent environment, which enhances their feeling of security.

Relationships between the childminder and children are a strong feature and as a result the children are confident learners. The wide range of well planned activities positively promote children's independence. Children are free to explore the indoor and outdoor environments. They are occupied and interested by the extensive range of activities available to them and have sufficient scope to explore their own ideas, with constant encouragement and praise from the childminder.

Children are having enormous fun as they involve themselves in the very good range of toys and activities provided. They are confident and at ease in the child friendly environment. Children are making good progress in all areas of their development because the childminder has a sound understanding of how children learn; and an extensive range of suitable toys and resources for the ages of children attending. She spends lots of time playing and talking with them to extend their learning. For example, children's self expression and imaginative skills are very well fostered, they were encouraged to act out the role of characters from familiar story lines, such as the Three Billy Goats Gruff. Children became highly absorbed and extremely excited as they hid under the bridge waiting in anticipation to be found.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and adapts activities such as singing, story telling and physical activities to promote younger children's learning. Children are exploring their natural environment by planting, digging and watching the growth of vegetables at the local allotment. Children have very good opportunities to widen their experiences and knowledge, for example, visits to the museum, art sessions, parks, fun play, ball play and drop in groups. They explore new activities and enjoy the company of other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well behaved as the childminder provides consistent boundaries and offers lots of praise and encouragement. They enjoy close relationships with the childminder and clearly know what is expected of them. For example, she encourages children to make good choices, such as, sharing, taking turns and being kind to one another.

Children are developing a positive view of diversity within society, as they have access to a good range of resources that promote an understanding of others, such as books. A project

focussing on customs and traditions of other cultures was incorporated into the children's activities, raising their awareness of others.

Children with learning difficulties or disabilities are welcome in the childminder's home, as she has a positive attitude towards this area of childcare, and has attended portage training to further reinforce her knowledge.

Children benefit from the strong partnerships between parents and the childminder. Children's routines, activities and achievements are discussed and a daily contact book ensures there is a regular exchange of information. The childminder provides good information for parents about her provision such as, thorough policies and procedures which underpin the good practice in place.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare, care and development needs are met effectively as the childminder has sound knowledge and understanding of caring for young children. She is well organised, warm and affectionate towards children who are relaxed and very happy in her care. The positive relationships between their parents and the childminder means children feel safe and secure.

The childminder's record keeping is very thorough and up-to-date. Written policies, procedures and the effective use of the Birth to three matters framework underpins the good practice carried out by her. The childminder continually keeps up to date with relevant training to enhance the high levels of care the children already receive.

The childminder ensures that she carries out parents wishes while providing good care of their children who clearly enjoy their time at the childminder's. Overall 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 required to develop a portfolio of policies and procedures. The childminder has developed very thorough written policies and procedures to further safeguard the welfare of the children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain 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):

- provide a separate recording system for recording serious concerns and incidents.

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