



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161018
Inspection date	22 February 2007
Inspector	Sylvia Dindar
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 registered since 2001. She is registered for six children and is currently minding six children under five years and 11 children under eight year on a part time basis. She lives with her husband and their three children, two of whom are of school age. They live in a house in the Bitterne Park area of Southampton within walking distance to local shops schools and parks. The whole ground floor is used for childminding.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group and other groups on regular basis. She is a member of the Southampton Childminders' Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a family orientated environment that is warm and light and clean. Children learn good hygiene practice, for example, they are reminded to wash their hands after toileting and before meal times. They are provided with soft soap and paper towels. Robust procedures are in place when nappy changing. The childminder wears disposable gloves and seals nappies into bags and disposes of them appropriately. These procedures minimise the risk of cross infection.

A sick child policy is in place and this is shared with parents so that they understand the childminder's responsibility to protect the good health of all children and infectious children are not accepted. Children are safeguarded because the childminder has written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder has a suitable first aid box and holds a current first aid certificate. This means the childminder is able to administer first aid in the event of an accident.

To help promote children's physical development, the childminder takes children on daily outings. They enjoy going to the park where they can run, climb and swing and play ball games. These exercises help children develop strong muscles and develop their co-ordination. Nervous children are coaxed and supported until they become confident to tackle such things as slides independently. Children regularly go swimming so they get used to being in the water and learn to swim. The childminder ensures that children get time to rest when needed and younger children are able to follow their own sleep patterns and wake up fresh and ready to play.

Children enjoy snacks that are varied and nutritious such as a selection of fresh and dried fruit, toast and bread sticks. Children show they know which foods are good for them as they discuss this at snack time. Lunch times are snack type meals and children are offered a range of breads, crackers and healthy fillings, as well as yoghurts and fruit for puddings. The childminder works with parents and gathers information about children's individual dietary requirements. These are acted upon to ensure that children eat foods that are suitable and in line with their parents wishes. Fresh drinks are available at all times and children confidently help themselves from individual beakers so that they do not become dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment that is safe and secure as the childminder ensures that doors are kept securely locked. The childminder has risk assessed her home and taken action to minimise hazards. For example, all cleaning materials and medication are kept out of reach or are locked away. Children move around freely without hazards as areas such as the stairs are restricted. Children learn rules to keep them safe, for example, no running indoors, they tidy up the toys so that they do not become a hazard allowing space to play. On outings children are transported in appropriate car seats and secured with safety harnesses. They begin to learn how to keep themselves safe as they learn how to cross the road safely.

Children are kept safe as the childminder has planned and displayed the emergency evacuation procedure. Children become familiar with the emergency procedure as they practise them regularly, this ensures they can be evacuated quickly and safely in an emergency. Smoke detectors are in place and regularly checked to ensure they are in working order.

Children's welfare is protected as the childminder is able to identify the signs of abuse and systems are in place to protect children. She shares information with parents so that they understand her responsibility to protect all children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children flourish and benefit from being cared for in a warm family environment. They have formed a good relationship with the childminder and her family. Children are confident and happy to ask for the things they need knowing that the childminder will respond appropriately. Good routines ensure that all children's care needs are met. Children feel a sense of belonging as they know where things are and can access age appropriate resources easily. This allows children to explore at their own pace and to make independent choices. A good balance of child and adult initiated activities means that children are stimulated and engaged in their play. Children's imagination is captured as they dress up and re-enact real and imagined experiences. They choose from a wide range of dressing up, which include attractively decorated Indian and Spanish outfits. They proudly parade around the room and the childminder comments how good they look so children feel good about themselves. Children enjoy art and craft activities and explain how they have created pictures from the dye in tissue paper. They have opportunities to construct, for example, they thoughtfully build and design the marble run, they show that they understand how it will work and explain to the childminder that they have intentionally put a few tricks in it. Children access a wide and varied selection of books which includes favourite board books for younger children, as well as story books and factual books for older children. Toys are regularly rotated so that children do not become bored. Children get lots of opportunities to socialise as they regularly visit other childminders. They enjoy trips to the local library for story time and are able to join in the fun at a local toddler group and the soft play centre.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well in response to the childminder's warm and caring approach and this makes children feel secure and nurtured. All children are treated with equal concern, the childminder knows the children well and acknowledges their individuality. She gives them lots of praise and encouragement, building their confidence and raising their self esteem. Children are at ease within the childminders home and individual needs are met. There are sufficient toys allowing for a wide range of abilities so all children can join in activities of their choosing. Older children include the younger ones in their play, for instance, when dressing up.

Children learn about other cultures and beliefs as the childminder provides a range of resources that reflect positive images of the wider world and their community. For example, small world

people, dressing up and books. The childminder uses these resources to further stimulate discussion and allow children to air their views so that any misconceptions can be dealt with. Children have access to books which deal with a range of situations such as bullying, feeling uncomfortable with adults and looking at people of differing abilities. These books are used to heighten their awareness of their own rights and those of others.

Children are well behaved and play happily together. They invite others to join in their games and show consideration for others and are helpful. Children know the simple rules as they are consistently applied. These are based on the safety and care of themselves, others and their property. When incidents occur the childminder deals with them firmly but fairly listening to both sides and helping children find solutions to their problems when needed. She helps them understand how their behaviour impacts on others and suggests ways in which they might modify their behaviour. Rules are simple but effective and consistently applied, for example, no running.

Children benefit as the childminder values the information she gathers from parents. A settling in procedure allows information to be exchanged and relationships established. Business arrangements are secured as contracts are in place. The childminder shares a range of policies with parents so that they understand what they can expect of her and what she expects of them. A daily diary is kept and this forms the basis for discussion at the end of the day. It contains information about the child's day and their overall development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides. Children are cared for by an experienced and trained childminder. This is reflected in the service she provides for children. She organises time, space and resources well and all meet the children's developmental needs. Children are welcomed into a comfortable, adequately maintained, stimulating environment where they feel at home and valued.

The childminder sometimes works with another childminder and secures parent's written consent for this shared care. Separate records are kept including attendance registers, however, these do not identify who is caring for children when transporting children to and from school. All other records required by regulation are effectively kept and are available for inspection and all adults in the household have been vetted. The childminder has a range of policies which underpin her good practice and all records are shared with parents.

Improvements since the last inspection

At last inspection the childminder was required to do the following ;

Obtain a copy of the National standards, she has now acquired this and shows knowledge of the National Standards and continues to comply with them;

Secure written parental consent prior to administering of medication, parents are now required to sign before any medication is given safeguarding children's health;

Put a smoke detector on both floors, these are in place and in working order so the provider is alerted to the dangers of fire and can evacuate children at the earliest opportunity keeping them safe;

Provide a broad range of resources that promote diversity, this has been increased so that children are given a wider range of positive images of the wider world.

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

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):

- review the use of attendance records and ensure that they clearly define who cares for individual children when being transported on the school run.

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