



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	150854
Inspection date	23 November 2006
Inspector	Lisa Jane Cupples
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 1998. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Worthy Down, Hampshire. The whole of the home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and overnight care for two children under eight-years-old. The childminder is currently minding four children aged from one year to five years on a full and part-time basis. The childminder walks children to pre-school and takes children to the bus stop to catch the school bus. The childminder and children visit toddler groups and the local play park. The family have a dog.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties, disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder protects the children's health because she has a sickness policy in place which is discussed with parents. She does not accept children with illnesses into her care to help prevent the possible spread of infection to other children. If a child becomes unwell in her care the parents are contacted to collect the child if necessary. Parents give written consent for the childminder to seek emergency medical treatment and to administer medication. They are required to sign the records to acknowledge the administration of medication. The childminder has a very clear understanding of the procedures to record all accidents that occur on the premises and parents sign to acknowledge that they have been informed, helping to keep children healthy. Children will receive appropriate treatment if an accident occurs because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid kit is in place.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and are developing good self care skills through discussion and daily routines. For example, washing their hands before and after snacks and after using the toilet or handling the family dog. Children are protected and enjoy a healthy environment because the childminder implements good hygiene procedures to help prevent the possible spread of infection, for example, ensuring the toys are cleaned regularly, and wiping over all surfaces before the children have snacks and meals.

Children are beginning to understand about healthy eating through daily discussions and talk openly about which food is good for them. She also talks to the parents about providing healthy choices for the children and builds on the older children's knowledge that they gain from school. The childminder finds out about each child's allergies, medical, cultural needs and parental preferences through discussion, ensuring that her practice reflects the needs of the children and their families.

Children have ample opportunities to develop their large muscle skills during activities in the garden. They enjoy a wide range of physical activities, such as using the sand pit, ride-on toys, push-along toys, chalk and paint boards. They go outside daily to reap the benefits of fresh air, for walks or to local parks. The children enjoy an extensive range of outings to various places, arranged with another childminder who lives locally, to ensure the children are provided with a broad range of everyday experiences.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the children and their families. The premises are clean, providing a safe and healthy environment for the children. They are able to move freely from the lounge to the dining room, developing their self-confidence. They have plenty of space to participate in a wide range of activities, independently, together or with the childminder. The childminder has organised the space available well to enable the children to access the resources with little or no assistance, developing their independence and increasing their freedom of choice. The resources and toys are brightly coloured to attract the

children's interest. The resources are stored in low-level boxes around the room, enabling the children to choose their own activities and see the variety on offer, developing their decision making skills effectively.

Children are protected because the childminder is vigilant and removes all potential risks to the children. For example, a stair gate is in place at the foot of the stairs to prevent the children going upstairs unsupervised, and there is also an extended stair gate across the kitchen doorway to limit the access to the kitchen area. The children learn to keep themselves safe through daily discussions and routines. The childminder practises the fire drill at least once every month and whenever a new child attends, so they are all fully aware of what to do if an emergency occurs. Arrangements have been made to take the children to another registered childminder's house in an emergency to ensure the children have a safe place to go.

The childminder has a very clear understanding of child protection procedures and discusses her responsibilities with the parents before the children attend. She would recognise the possible signs or symptoms of abuse and would contact the relevant parties to protect the children if concerns were identified. The childminder does not currently record the details of injuries that children arrive at the setting with.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

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 in the activities provided. The childminder provides many learning opportunities throughout the children's play, talking about colours, shapes, sizes and lengths, while building the train tracks, counting the animals, singing songs and introducing new vocabulary. Children have fun and enjoy developing their creative skills in many ways, the childminder allows the children to create their own work and supports their ideas, for example, by providing additional resources or letting the children experiment to understand more about the materials they are using. The children are encouraged to develop their independence through simple daily routines, for example, trying to put on their own coats and shoes on or taking their Wellington boots off by themselves after the nature walks.

Children enjoy the benefits of fresh air everyday, when they take the family dog for a walk. Children benefit greatly from the good quality interaction from the childminder, she plays on the floor at their level, helping and assisting as necessary. She knows when to stand back and let play develop naturally and provides additional resources to extend and develop the children's own ideas. Children take part in many different activities and are fully occupied and engaged throughout their day. Children really enjoy their time in this environment because the childminder gets to know them extremely well, providing activities that they are interested in, all pitched at the children's individual level of understanding to sufficiently challenge and stimulate them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and ensures all children have equal access to the resources and activities available. Children learn to share and take turns easily. The childminder tells them why it is important to take turns and share and the children can see they have been treated fairly, responding well to the childminder's gentle reminders. Children's individual needs are met extremely well because the childminder takes the time to get to know each child and their families well. She finds out about the children's needs and preferences through detailed discussion with the parents and she records the details on their registration forms. This develops a real sense of belonging and the children feel valued when the childminder talks about their siblings, other family members and their home life. The childminder shares information with the parents verbally at collection time, they talk about how the children have been, what they have been doing and any other things that have happened, helping to keep them informed.

The childminder has a positive approach to working with children who have special needs and would be happy to liaise closely with the parents and other agencies to ensure each child's needs are being met. Children are developing a good sense of right and wrong because the childminder has clear rules and boundaries in place. Children's behaviour is extremely good because they know exactly what is expected of them. The childminder always gives clear explanations aimed at their individual level of understanding. The childminder is a positive role model and deals with unwanted behaviour calmly and with a relaxed manner, for example, by sitting down with the children and explaining clearly why they can't do something. The childminder always uses behaviour management techniques which reflect the age and understanding of the children, for example, using reasoning and discussion with older children and simple distraction with the younger children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The daily routines reflect the individual needs of each child. The activities are exceptionally well planned around the children's sleep patterns and interests and run smoothly ensuring the children are fully occupied and engaged. Children enjoy their time with the childminder because the activities are well organised and help to promote the children's development.

Children's health, safety and well-being are promoted well because most of the required paperwork is in place, well-maintained, up-to-date and accurate. The childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process, keeping children safe.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the garden is made secure with regard to the fence and gate. She was also asked to ensure all documentation is available for inspection and records are completed appropriately showing accurate detail, with particular

regard to registers, medication records and child details. The broken fence panel in the garden has now been replaced and the shed lock has been fixed, ensuring a safe environment for the children to play in. Most documentation is now completed accurately, although the daily attendance register does not include the children's full names or their actual times of attendance.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action 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):

- ensure children's full names and actual times of attendance are recorded in the daily attendance registers
- ensure all existing injuries are recorded

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