



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY282806
Inspection date	24 October 2006
Inspector	Michele, Karen Beasley
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 and lives with her teenage daughter in a house in Horndean. The ground floor and upstairs bathroom of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. The home is within close walking distance of local schools, pre-schools, shops and parks. The family have no pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and currently cares for four children under eight years on a full and part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from illness and the spread of infection by the effective procedures the childminder has in place. For example, she washes her hands and the children's before and after toileting and preparing food. However, their health is not fully protected, because the childminder does not request parents' permission for seeking emergency treatment. Written information is obtained from parents regarding children's medical history, allergies and special dietary requirements ensuring their individual needs are fully met. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate in place which ensures children's well being and safety. She records accidents and the administration of medication appropriately.

Parents supply their own child's meals however, the childminder has a flexible approach to providing breakfast if required and a range of snacks such as fruit. She works closely with parents to ensure the children's individual needs are being met and the parents wishes are being respected at all times.

The children enjoy a varied range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health and physical development. The childminder recognises the benefits of daily exercise for the children and they have opportunities to develop their small and large muscles. The childminder provides a range of outdoor interests for the children, including garden games, trips to the park and other local attractions.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, welcoming environment. The resources are well laid out with toys stored accessibly to allow children to move around safely. The developmental needs of the children are met by the wide range of equipment that is made available to them, which is clean, safe and well maintained. The toys are rotated regularly to provide the children with a good balance of learning opportunities.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and pays good attention to ensuring risks and hazards are minimised and children's safety is promoted. Good systems are in place for ensuring children are only collected by authorised persons. Children's welfare is well protected through the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues and her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has a exceptional understanding of child development which enables her to offer flexible, high quality care, which is suited to each child. Children enjoy an extensive range of planned activities, which contributes to their creativity and imagination, such as making friendship braids, masks and wooden spoon people.

Children display high levels of confidence in their daily activities and are developing very good independence skills, as they busy themselves and become absorbed in their activities. Their early communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality interaction with the childminder. They enthusiastically thread sewing cards whilst the childminder helps guide the child to the next hole. Children discuss their activities and talk about what they are doing such as listening to instructions from a toy to move the hands on a clock to the correct time. Children make positive relationships, they play exceptionally well together and are encouraged to consider one another as they play.

The childminder is skilful in encouraging children to make very good progress in all areas of development. For example, children participate in a wide range of activities which extend their knowledge in areas such as maths and English. They use equipment to count and sequence and look at phonetic flash cards to identify words. Children learn about festivals including Easter, they decorate eggs and make their own cards. Children are able to demonstrate what they know as the childminder uses skilful questioning to make them think. The childminder finds out about the children's skills, interests and needs and builds on this information effectively to help children to fulfil their potential.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals and benefit from the childminder knowing them well and responding to their personal needs and character. They are learning to respect their own culture, and those of the wider world, through the childminder's positive attitude towards people from all walks of life. Children are becoming independent as they make choices and take some decisions within their play from low level storage boxes and cupboards set out around the lounge. Through strong relationships built with the children, care is taken by the childminder to ensure all children are welcomed and included according to their age and stage of development.

The childminder has no experience of working with children who have special needs at this time. However, through discussion was able to demonstrate a clear understanding of her responsibilities. She would be happy to liaise with other agencies and would always work closely with the parents to meet the individual needs of the children.

Children are learning how to manage their own behaviour through the good examples displayed by the childminder. They are learning to be courteous and considerate of each other, understanding that their behaviour has an impact on others around them and in this way are learning right from wrong. Older children make an active contribution to setting house rules which encourages standards of positive behaviour and helps to create harmony within the household.

Children benefit from the good relationships built with parents and information is freely shared between both parties. Clear, well presented written policies provided by the childminder, including a well stocked notice board of useful information in the hallway, ensures parents are kept fully informed of what their child has been doing. This is further supported by a verbal exchange of information at the beginning and end of the day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children are able to move around freely in the indoor and outdoor space which maximises the play opportunities for the children. This means children are confident to initiate and extend their own play. Policies and procedures are used to promote the welfare and care of the children. Most of the required documentation which contributes to the children's health, safety and well-being is in place and stored confidentially. The childminder ensures that children are provided with an extensive range of play experiences matched to their individual learning needs and interests.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. In discussion and through documentation the childminder demonstrates a knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. The childminder recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder promotes children's awareness of the wider through activities and resources such as reference books and projects around different festivals.

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):

- ensure written permission is obtained for emergency medical treatment.

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