



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	131475
Inspection date	19 December 2006
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 1994. She is registered to care for six children under eight years, of these not more than three may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year. At present the childminder cares for nine children under eight years on a part time basis. She also cares for children over the age of eight.

The childminder lives with her husband and adult son. They live in a house in the Itchen area of Southampton. The whole of the property is used for childminding including a securely fenced outside play area. The childminder attends a local parent and toddler group on a regular basis.

The childminder is part of the National Childminding Association Network and takes part in the quality assurance scheme 'Children Come First'.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn about the importance of being healthy through the childminder's skilful support and guidance and through well-established daily routines. Toddlers in nappies are changed regularly and have their own individual changing mats which they are taught to identify from an early age, and begin to learn the importance of protecting themselves from germs. Children are encouraged to be independent in their self-care skills as the childminder provides a step to help them reach the sink. Attractive easily identified individual towels and flannels are provided further minimising the risk of cross infection. Children learn to take care of their teeth as the childminder encourages them to clean their teeth after mealtimes and when something sweet has been eaten such as raisins.

Physical activity is highly regarded and children are able to develop their physical skills as they take part in a wide range of activities on a daily basis. Children enjoy daily walks to and from school, visits to the local parks. They visit toddler groups on a regular basis where they have room to run around. They enjoy playing in the garden using a very good range of equipment. This helps children develop positive attitudes to exercise and promotes their health and well-being. Children are able to rest and play according to their own needs.

Children are well nourished and kept hydrated as drinks are kept at child height. They are becoming aware of good nutrition as the childminder discusses healthy eating and selects healthy options with them. They are encouraged to become involved in snack preparation. Posters are displayed and planned play activities further re-enforce the healthy eating message. Children are aware of their own needs, for example, when they need something to eat or when they need a drink.

The childminder has clear information on children's dietary requirements and works very well with the parents to ensure that these requirements are met. Children thrive because the childminder has thorough procedures and documents in place to ensure that children's individual needs are very well met

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where their safety is paramount. They are well supervised and the building is secure. Children do not have access to hazardous materials as these are stored in locked cupboards out of children's reach. Younger children do not have unsupervised access to the stairs or to the kitchen as gates are in place. Daily safety checks both inside and out in the garden ensure that most hazards are identified and safety features are in place before the children commence their play. However large garden pots on a child height table pose a potential risk to children.

Children play with toys and resources that are of good quality, age appropriate and safe as the childminder ensures that they are regularly checked and that they are appropriate for the age and stage of development.

Children learn to take control over their safety and that of others for example they learn to tidy up so that they have a clear floor space to move around. Children learn about road safety as they walk to and from school. Children become familiar with the emergency evacuation procedures as these are regularly practised with children. Smoke detectors are in place and these are maintained weekly.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and systems are in place to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and have established very warm and affectionate relationships with her. Children settle extremely well at the childminder's house, make themselves at home as they have a place to put their coat and bags and confidently and know where things are.

The childminder has an exceptional understanding of child development and plans an excellent range of activities for all children to take part in. She has a very good understanding of how children learn and uses the Birth to three matters framework to plan an exciting range of activities to enhance children's development and helps them acquire new knowledge and skills. Children benefit from socialising with others at local toddler groups and enjoy activities which contribute to their creativity and imagination. This is evident from the range of art work which is effectively displayed in the room.

Children display high levels of confidence in their daily activities and are given a range of opportunities to help them develop good independence skills. They choose freely from the well planned activities on offer. They are able to play spontaneously with the wide range of toys that they can very easily access. They freely express themselves and are able to clearly ask for the things that they need and are confident that the childminder will respond to their needs.

They enjoy sociable snack times with the childminder and become very involved as they help prepare their own snacks, giving them an added interest in the food they eat. Children are given a sense of belonging as they learn to recognise the things that are especially theirs for example, individual high chairs, cots, flannels. Children are learning to share and take turns and play alongside each other.

Children's early communication skills are extremely well supported through high quality interaction with the childminder as she discusses the activities and talks about what they are doing. Children's senses are stimulated as they begin to identify sounds from the tape recorded and match them to the pictures on the lotto cards. They are able to identify familiar tastes as the childminder tests their recall of familiar and some unfamiliar tastes, children are encouraged to express their likes and dislikes. They begin to understand about shape, number and colour

during activities and daily routines. They learn how things grow as they sow and plant vegetables and fruit. Children particularly enjoy singing familiar rhymes and moving to music, they begin to make sounds from instruments.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well as the childminder gives them respect and treats them as individuals. Older children help set the rules which are mainly around the care and consideration of others and their safety, so they begin to understand why rules are made. The childminder understands that children have different temperaments and come from differing backgrounds and takes this into account when dealing with behavioural issues. She has realistic expectations of children and takes into account their age and stage of development. She has a clear behavioural policy in place and this is shared with parents as the childminder recognises the importance of a consistent approach with home. Children feel safe and secure and know what is expected of them as rules are consistently applied.

Children are well cared for as the childminder respects and works with parents to provide good care for individual children. She gathers and acts upon the information collected from parents about their child's individual needs. These include dietary, religious and cultural needs, along with other specific requirements. Daily diaries are shared with parents so they are kept well informed of their child's development. Parents have access to a range of information that may help them care for their child.

All children feel valued and included as activities are adapted so that children with differing abilities can join in. A wide range of equipment is available so that children are well supported in their play. The childminder understands that children have different temperaments and come from differing backgrounds and recognises these. Each child makes up their own book about themselves and the things that are important to them. They are each encouraged to talk and share information about their families and listen to others, this begins to raise children's awareness of the uniqueness of each other and raises their self esteem. Children have access to a wide range of play provision which reflects the society in which we live. They celebrate a range of festivals in meaningful ways so that children learn to understand about other cultures and beliefs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are very well cared for as the childminder has experience and a good knowledge of child development. She shows a professional approach and ensures that she keeps up to date with current childcare practice by updating her knowledge and skill through regular training and through the local childminding network.

Children benefit as space is well organised and allows children to access a wide range of resources and activities that interest children and keep them well stimulated. She uses a range of resources

to aid her in planning to ensure children's development needs are met. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder shows a good knowledge of the National Standards and has a range procedure and policies in place to underpin and support her good practice. These are shared with parents so that they fully understand the childminders role in ensuring the safety care and welfare of all children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At last inspection the childminder was required to ensure permission for emergency treatment be obtained for each minded child. Written parental consent is now in place for all children enabling the childminder to take appropriate action when needed in an emergency ensuring children are well cared for.

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 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 risk assessment to ensure that it identifies all hazards

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