

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112080
Inspection date	02 April 2007
Inspector	Alison Large
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 1995. She lives with her husband who is also a registered childminder and their two children aged over eight, in a split level house in the Basingstoke area of Hampshire. Two levels of the property are used for childminding, plus bedrooms for rest 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 one child under five all day, and one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have a pet cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home, where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene and personal care. Children have a clear understanding of why they must

wash their hands before eating, and after using the toilet, however, the sharing of a hand towel increases the risk of cross contamination. The childminder's support and guidance helps children gain a good understanding of hygiene and they become increasingly independent in their personal care.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as the childminder introduces a variety of healthy snacks and lunches. Children are offered fruit daily and can access drinking water, squash and juices throughout the day to remain hydrated. The childminder takes into account the wishes of parents to provide lunches and snacks that appeal to children and meet their dietary needs.

The childminder recognises the benefits of daily exercise for the children and they have opportunities to develop their muscles. The children have access to a good range of outdoor interests. Garden games, regular trips to parks and other outings help improve their physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues. Children are cared for in a home where risks are identified and minimised, which means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder is vigilant, gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe, and to maintaining children's safety inside and outside the home. The emergency evacuation procedure has been talked about, to ensure children are aware of what to do should there be an emergency.

Children are able to select activities from a range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards, and procedures are in place to ensure equipment is kept clean and well maintained. The childminder monitors the children's choice of toys to make sure they are appropriate to the age and stage of the children's development.

The childminder has all the required documentation in place and gives priority to ensuring the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. The childminder has an awareness of child protection issues and recognises her role and responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. They enter confidently, settle well and make themselves at home in the childminder's house and enjoy the range of activities and experiences offered to them. The children build close and caring relationships with the childminder, which increases their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self.

Children are interested in a good range of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities which appeal to all. Older children are able to enjoy different activities from the younger children, which are more suited to their developmental stages, ensuring their individual needs are met. The children relate well to each other and are able to socialise with other children through regular visits to a carer and toddler group. Children interact well with the childminder, she enjoys their company, engages in conversation with them and joins in their play, encouraging their social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children thrive in the childminder's care. All children are welcomed and play a full part in their day because the childminder respects each child's individuality. Children play well together, they learn to share and take turns and show concern for each other. They are able to access some resources to promote positive images and increase an awareness of diversity, which helps children develop an understanding of others.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes to the children's well-being whilst at the childminder's. Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents and together they work to meet the children's individual needs. Behaviour is good and children show high levels of independence, confidence and self esteem as the childminder praises and values their achievements. The childminder manages behaviour calmly and effectively ensuring clear boundaries are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment, this means they are able to extend their own play. The children's care is enhanced by the quality of organisation of the childminder, who works with her husband who is her co-childminder. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise the play opportunities for children.

Procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare and care of the children. They are shared with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. All documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, stored confidentially and regularly reviewed and the childminder takes overall responsibility for maintaining appropriate records.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was given an action to keep a register recording times of arrival and departure of the children. The childminder keeps an accurate record of the children's attendance which ensures she is complying to the necessary regulations and the children's welfare is safeguarded.

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):

- provide individual hand drying towels for the children to reduce the risk of cross infection.

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