

Michelle Sarjeant

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110702
Inspection date	26 March 2007
Inspector	Michelle Ann Parham

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 1996. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for eight children who attend on a full and part time basis. The childminder lives with her husband and four children. They live in a house in a residential area of Cowplain in Hampshire. Local shops, community parks and schools are within walking distance of the home. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding with the first floor only accessed for toileting. There is a fully enclosed rear garden area available for outside play. The family have pet rabbits housed in the garden and a budgerigar in a cage in the home. The childminder attends groups for children on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where active steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection. For example, children are encouraged to follow regular hand washing routines before meals, after touching pets and after outside play. Children are cared for effectively if an accident occurs as there is a well maintained first aid kit and the childminder has a current

first aid qualification. Consequently she is able to deal with accidents and illness efficiently. Children are protected from unnecessary illness as they do not attend if they are infectious. These measures promote good health and hygiene and prevent cross contamination occurring.

Children have good opportunity for physical play as they enjoy various outings to the Sea Life Centre, local community parks, woodland walks and to Butser Hill. Children also enjoy going on picnics and to feed the ducks. The childminder undertakes daily walks to the local preschool and Infant and Junior Schools. Children also benefit from play in the safe, enclosed rear garden where they enjoy using the skipping ropes, bats and balls and wheeled toys borrowed from the local toy lending library. As a result children have good opportunity for regular fresh air and exercise and develop an understanding of their local environment.

Children have their individual needs met because the childminder discusses their routines and individual health and dietary requirements with parents. They benefit from healthy and nutritious snacks at the setting such as fresh fruit or breadstick and have plenty of fresh drinks which are always readily accessible. Parents currently supply healthy meals which the childminder effectively knows how to reheat as she has a food hygiene certificate. As a result the children are well nourished, which prevents them from becoming tired and improves concentration.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe within the home as the childminder has taken all necessary precautions to prevent injury. For example, safety gates are used to prevent unsupervised access to the stairs and kitchen and cupboard locks are used to prevent access to hazardous materials. The front door is kept locked to prevent children leaving and unannounced visitors entering the home and the rear garden is fully enclosed. Children are protected as effective procedures are in place for their collection and alternative arrangements are agreed beforehand with parents. They are able to use the equipment and environment safely as furniture and resources are well maintained and conform to safety standards. Toys are organised and in good condition, which ensures they are suitable for use and do not present a hazard to children. Children are gaining an increased understanding of safety when outside the home, for example, the childminder helps them learn road safety rules, staying where they can be seen and implications of approaching unfamiliar animals. Children are appropriately restrained and seated when travelling in the car, in line with recent legislation and effective use of harnesses in buggies also contributes to their safety.

Children's welfare is well maintained as the childminder has the required documentation in place to record existing injuries. She has attended additional training for child protection and has good awareness of signs and symptoms that could cause concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children respond positively to the attention, time and support they receive from the childminder as she provides interesting and fun activities and fully includes herself in their play. For example, they laugh and giggle as they sit in cardboard boxes and pretend they are in a 'Tardis'. The childminder extends children's learning as she uses effective questioning such as asking about colours and looking at differences. She provides activities that promote learning and that the children enjoy such as alphabet cards where they begin to spell their name and first word books where they love to receive a gold sticker on completion of tasks. Children benefit from the

childminder's understanding of child development and of how they learn through play and fun activities. Simple activities such as painting and decorating large cardboard boxes foster children's imagination well as they plan and decide whether it is a car or a house. They also have really good fun when they use a simple sheet to make a den and huddle in together. The childminder has very good interaction with the children as she plays with them at the table or on the lounge floor, she makes good eye contact, speaks clearly and gives time for children to work things out for themselves and respond. As a result children's verbal communication skills are developing well.

The childminder knows the children well and they are confident and settled in her care showing good levels of self esteem and genuine affection for the childminder. She has attended additional training on the Birth to three matters framework which helps to ensure that young children are fully included in the life of the setting and effectively supported. The environment is a happy home where children have fun and are sufficiently challenged which has a positive impact on their overall development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's behaviour is good in the setting. They learn acceptable behaviour because the childminder has good interpersonal skills and a warm friendly manner which the children respond well to. The childminder has clear house rules such as not answering the front door, being kind and nice to each other and not hurting others. Children benefit from positive techniques to manage behaviour, such as praise and encouragement, distraction, rewards of stickers and discussion to help them learn the effect their behaviour has on others. Occasional time out is also used for children to sit and think or calm down. These effective techniques help children learn right from wrong and any issues of concerns are discussed with parents.

Children benefit from satisfactory partnership with parents, for example they are welcomed into the home on a daily basis to discuss the day's events and the childminder provides a daily diary to ensure parents are fully included in the child's day. The childminder tries to build a close working relationship with parents and be aware of any family issues that may have an impact on the child. Parents are informed about the setting through discussion and children are encouraged to attend for introductory periods to help them settle. All documents are shared and co-signed, the certificate of registration is on display, however the complaints log is not currently in a format for parents to view on request.

Children are developing a strong sense of themselves because the childminder values them as individuals. She has a good understanding of equal opportunities and awareness and experience of children with additional needs. Children develop a positive attitude towards others and learn about the wider world and community through discussion and resources such as books, puzzles, dolls and small world figures that reflect positive images. All children are fully included; they are made welcome into the home and show a good sense of belonging as they engage happily with the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from an organised home where they are happy, relaxed and comfortable. Their health and well-being is addressed because most required documentation is in place, maintained and shared with parents. However weaknesses have been identified in regard to having adequate

records of children's personal details and requirements and the complaints log. Children benefit from a safe, secure and stimulating environment, where they are protected by sound procedures which are implemented effectively by the childminder. They are occupied throughout their time at the setting, as the childminder organises her time, activities and resources appropriately. She has an understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process and overall maintains standards. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection visit the childminder was required to ensure that a separate record is kept of existing injuries, that children are made aware of the emergency evacuation procedure and that the lock on the bathroom door is safe.

The provider now has a separate book in which she records existing injuries and any concerns noted about children. She has devised suitable evacuation from the home in the event of an emergency and has practised this procedure with the children. Children are now safe when using the bathroom independently as a new handle has now been fitted with a lock mechanism that can be accessed from outside. These measures have a positive impact on the safety and welfare of children at the setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 the complaints log is in a format for parents to view on request
- record individual information for all children to ensure their specific requirements are identified and addressed.

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