



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 111578 |
| Inspection date | 22 February 2007 |
| Inspector | Judith Reed |
| 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 1993. She lives with her husband and two school age children in a house in Warsash, near Southampton. The whole of the ground floor 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 is currently caring for three children, under five years, on a part time basis, and three children before and after school, also part time. The childminder cares for a number of children aged over eight years. The childminder walks to and from local schools to take and collect children. She attends local parent and toddler groups. The family has a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are healthy as the childminder is very aware of preventing any cross infection. She follows thorough routines when changing nappies including washing the changing mat and wearing gloves to protect the children she cares for and herself from cross infection. Children are encouraged to use the downstairs toilet independently. They are reminded to wash their hands when necessary and they use individual kitchen roll sheets for hand drying. The childminder has up to date first aid training and has a suitably stocked first aid kit. She keeps a first aid kit available in the car for use on outings. The childminder has obtained written consent for emergency treatment for each minded child and records accidents and medication administration as necessary. The childminder ensures the family pet dog is not left alone with minded children.

Children enjoy frequent opportunities for physical play and development. They are taken for walks to and from school daily, as well as walks with the dog each morning. The childminder attends local toddler groups with younger children where they have opportunities to run around and exercise. She also takes children to local parks and the beach.

Children consume a nutritious diet as discussed with their parents. The childminder prepares a morning snack of fruit for younger children and sandwiches or fruit for children who attend after school. The childminder asks parents to keep her informed about each child's dietary requirements. Some children bring a packed lunch which the childminder prepares for them. She stores food in the refrigerator as appropriate. The childminder ensures that children sit together for their snacks and it is a social time to discuss their day. She encourages children to have regular drinks throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move around the ground floor freely. The childminder keeps the front door locked and has an alarm on the front door to ensure children's safety. The rear garden is fully fenced and secure. Children are protected from the risk of accidental injury by the good use of safety equipment. Socket covers are in place and kitchen cupboards containing cleaning equipment are latched. Younger children do not use upstairs unless sleeping in a cot. The childminder uses a stair gate when required. The childminder has most necessary fire safety equipment in place, although there is no smoke alarm on the ground floor. Fire evacuation is practised regularly and the childminder ensures all children are fully involved. The childminder has a health and safety policy in place and ensures parents and children are fully aware of the safety issues in the home. She ensures children do not go near the glass cabinet in the living room by placing furniture in front of it. The childminder is very aware of safety when taking children out and about. She ensures younger children wear wrist bands stating her telephone contact number and she carries emergency contact information at all times.

Children access resources independently from storage in the toy room. Toys and equipment are stored in a rack as well as large storage boxes. Games and items suitable for older children are stored at higher level. The childminder ensures toys are safe, clean and suitable for those children present.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures and understands her professional duty regarding child protection. The childminder has taken training in this area and ensures parents are made aware of her child protection policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the familiar environment. They are relaxed and comfortable with the childminder who knows them well. Children help themselves to toys from the large chest of toys available in the living room. They find a train set and put together the track. Children place the engines on the track and switch them on, watching them go round and round. They move away and find a jigsaw, emptying out the pieces onto the floor. The childminder helps children empty toys from the chest and enables them to reach items from the bottom. Children play with dolls and a push chair. They move around playing with all the different toys available. The childminder repeats words that younger children say to help them develop their speech and language. She talks to them about what they are doing. The childminder is very aware of the needs of the youngest children. Children choose toys from storage in the toy room. They find a box of picture dominoes and take them to the living room to explore the individual dominoes. Children also find a bag of dolls which are more suitable for older children. The childminder watches younger children very carefully and supports them by fixing pieces together and reassuring them. When the younger children move away the childminder packs away all the pieces and replaces the bag in the toy room.

Older children ask to ice cakes and gingerbread men. The childminder is happy for them to work independently and tidy up afterwards. Children ask to be involved in taking the dog for a walk in a local park later in the day. The childminder is aware of the differing needs of older children and allows more independence and choices.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals and the childminder knows them well. They begin to develop an understanding of diversity through the range of toys, books, and snack foods available. Children use a range of toys which reflect diversity including puzzles, dolls and books. The childminder uses the local library to extend the range of books available. She also displays posters showing positive roles models including men changing nappies or doing household chores.

All children are valued and respected. The childminder has some experience in caring for people with disabilities and learning difficulties. She has a positive attitude towards caring for children

with disabilities and learning difficulties and would work closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Children are generally well behaved. The childminder helps children learn appropriate behaviour and works with parents to support children. She has a detailed behaviour management policy which states that she will telephone parents regarding behaviour issues to ensure confidentiality. The childminder has some house rules and ensures she is consistent regarding managing behaviour. She has recently completed some training in this field and is particularly aware of positive behaviour management strategies.

Children benefit from the good communication between the childminder and their parents. The childminder has built a sound business relationship with parents. They discuss the children at the end of the day as necessary. Parents are given copies of all policies and procedures including the complaints procedure. The childminder ensures parents are made aware of how to contact Ofsted and keeps a record of complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed in the familiar environment. The childminder is very well organised and aware of the individual needs of the children in her care. She has good awareness of the National Standards and ensures she remains within her registered numbers at all times. The childminder keeps her register up to date and accurate at all times.

Children's care is enhanced due to the additional training undertaken by the childminder. Further training is valued by the childminder and she accesses many different training courses which benefit her role as a child carer. The childminder does not leave children unattended with anyone who is not vetted. She is aware that checks are completed on all adults living in the premises. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Documentation is stored in a well organised file. Separate sections are used to contain information about each individual child, therefore, paperwork is easily accessed when required. The childminder is well aware of confidentiality issues and stores records appropriately.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that Ofsted is notified regarding significant issues, improve toy storage and provision, including those reflecting diversity, so that children can make their own choices in play. The childminder was also asked to formulate and practise an emergency fire escape plan and to review documentation, including the daily register, and prior written consent/records for medicines, so as to give all the relevant details.

The childminder is very aware of keeping Ofsted informed about any changes. She has a small range of toys which reflect diversity, however, she also uses the library to extend the range of books available to the children. Toy storage is easily accessible to children and they make choices about their own play. The childminder has a clear fire escape plan which is practised

regularly with the children. All other records, including the register, are accurate and up to date ensuring children are safeguarded at all times.

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 a smoke alarm on the ground floor to ensure children's safety at all times.

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