



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	151040
Inspection date	11 January 2007
Inspector	Deborah Page
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 2000. She lives with her husband and five children aged three, eight, 10, 11 and 14 in Ringwood. The ground floor is mainly used for childminding with overnight facilities on the first floor. There is access to an outdoor play area. The childminder is registered for a maximum of five children during the day and one child overnight. She is currently minding four children on a part time basis. The family have two pet dogs. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

In general, children benefit well from the procedures in place to promote healthy outcomes for children, such as, hand washing with bottled soap and disposable towels before eating and,

after using the toilet. However, this is not consistent for all children and some children are at risk from germs. There are good procedures in place for nappy changing. The childminder wears disposable gloves and cleans the changing mat between changes. However, the high chair harness is not sufficiently cleaned after meals and younger children are at risk from germs. Overnight care is discussed in detail with parents and carers who provide for the needs of their child, including, sheets. The childminder is fully aware of the system to record medication. However, at times there is a delay in recording accident/incident events and children may be at risk from lack of information available. The childminder makes sure the pet dogs are in good health. Most of the time they are kept separate. The childminder has a good understanding of nutritious food and drink. The provision of food for the children is shared with parents and carers. For example, snacks include fresh fruit and, lunch includes pasta with cheese, ham and tomatoes, followed by yoghurt and fresh fruit. Children are encouraged and praised as they drink. Drinks are accessible and regularly replenished. There are various opportunities for children to get fresh air and exercise in the garden and on regular outings including, the park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well protected as the childminder makes sure they are safe and secure. She provides an appropriate range of toys and equipment for the children. Good safety precautions include socket covers, fire guard and stair gates that restrict children's access during the day and, when providing overnight care. A toddler is protected as a lock prevents them from accessing a cupboard when they try to open it. The childminder supervises the children well and regularly checks sleeping children. She stated she uses monitors when children stay overnight. She organises children so they are safe and close by at the dining table when, preparing their meals. There are good fire precautions, including, a written escape plan that is displayed for parents. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder has good emergency procedures. Children are well safeguarded as the childminder is confident in child protection issues and, what to do if she is concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the good variety of activities the childminder provides. They enjoy mark making with chalks on black paper which clearly highlights their pictures. They are proud of their achievements and want to show their parents. Other pictures are used to make play money. The childminder provides good support enabling the children to extend the play situation with dressing up clothes. 'The princess and the dragon then go shopping with the money'. Children engross themselves in a play dough activity with a good variety of tools. The childminder stimulates conversation. They use the tools to make sausages to represent candles for a birthday cake and sing songs. The childminder meets the needs of younger children working closely with parents and carers. She closely follows individual daily routines. The children enjoy exploring and investigating toys. They are learning to balance and move around the play room. One child shakes a rattle, repeats the sound, then, finds another rattle for the other hand. They continue to shake the rattles with satisfaction. The childminder reassures a younger child and offers

support when they are upset. Children have regular opportunities to socialise with other children and have different experiences, such as, visits to toddlers groups, the farm and beach.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met as the childminder respects the wishes of parents and carers. They discuss in detail individual care and routines. The childminder demonstrates a sufficient understanding of equal opportunity issues including allowing children equal access to activities and equipment. She stated she continues to develop equal opportunity resources. There are no children with specific needs, however, the childminder endeavours to meet the needs of all children in her care. The childminder manages behaviour well. She regularly praises and encourages the children in activities. Children are proud as they are awarded with stickers, for example, when they regularly have a drink. The childminders partnership with parents and carers is good. There are excellent methods in place to keep parents informed about daily routines and activities. For example, a child's individual daily diary includes play activities, nappy change and sleeps. The diaries are also used by parents and carers to share information. Parents and carers are well informed about the care provided as policies and procedures are shared with them. There are written agreements and several written consents signed by parents and carers.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Procedures to make sure children are well cared for are generally good. Children are well supervised at all times. Space is well organised with the main activities taking place in the play room and the dining area. The lounge is used for quieter activities and rest periods. However, some procedures to promote good hygiene need to be reviewed so that all children are protected from germs at all times. All required documentation is available. However, the information in the record of attendance is not sufficient which may cause confusion when reviewing records. The procedure to record incidents needs to be reviewed so that incidents/accidents are recorded immediately after the event. The childminder has updated her first aid training which contributes to children's safety and wellbeing.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to make sure appropriate details are recorded for accidents and medication and that they are signed by parents. The childminder uses printed documentation which is signed by parents. Therefore, proper care and follow up is ensured for children. She also agreed to update her first aid training. The childminder has attended first aid training which contributes to children's safety and wellbeing. The childminder also continues to develop resources providing positive images of disability so that children have a greater understanding of the wider world.

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 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):

- continue to develop good hygiene practice to minimise germs
- ensure full information is detailed in the attendance record and any incidents/accidents are recorded immediately

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