



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY341728
Inspection date	06 February 2007
Inspector	Marilyn Joy
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 satisfactory. 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 2006. She lives with her husband and grown-up daughter in Southampton, Hampshire. Children have the use of the downstairs rooms which include toilet and washing facilities. Upstairs is used for children who need to sleep. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Children are often taken out to local parks and the common. The childminder attends toddler groups and takes children to the local library.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of six children under eight years and is currently minding two children aged one and three. She is registered to work with another childminder on the same premises.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious home cooked meals, such as, cottage pie or vegetable bake and choose what they want for lunch, such as boiled eggs. Sometimes they go shopping to buy the ingredients for their snack. Daily outings provide opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They visit the park to play on the swings or attend gym tots where they extend their physical skills.

Children's health and dietary requirements are clearly recorded and discussed with parents. However, prior written consent is not obtained for all medication and parental consent is not sought for emergency medical advice or treatment, which could result in children receiving inappropriate care. The childminder is aware of preventing cross-infection when children are unwell through thorough hand washing and separating as much as possible. However, she does not have a clear procedure for excluding children when they are ill or infectious or keeping up-to-date with current guidance on exclusion periods. Children are encouraged to wash their hands and the childminder is vigilant in observing daily hygiene routines when preparing food or changing nappies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and comfortable home environment. A basic selection of toys and resources are available. They are clean and in good condition. Consideration is given to keeping children safe through the use of appropriate safety equipment, for example, electric sockets are protected, there is a safety gate to prevent access to the stairs and the premises are secure. Most low level glass is toughened. However, glass in some areas of the home is not and, although these areas are not usually used, there are occasions, such as when using the bathroom upstairs, when the glass is accessible and children's safety becomes compromised.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a suitable understanding of child protection issues. Emergency procedures have been considered in the home and on outings. An evacuation plan has been prepared so that children can be evacuated quickly in the event of a fire and, emergency supplies and contact information are taken on outings. Children are encouraged to become aware of keeping themselves safe, for example, by holding hands with the childminder when out walking.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive sensitive care in a friendly home environment. A calm atmosphere is offered where babies have lots of cuddles and positive relationships are developed with all children. Gentle relaxed conversations encourage language development and an awareness of how to behave, for example, table manners and using please and thank you. Children choose what they want to play with when they arrive. Some toys are set out for babies, however, a broad

range of activities and resources is not available to fully support children's development. The kitchen and play food is popular and children enjoy preparing food for teddy. The large floor puzzle requires concentration and praise is given when completed. Children enjoy regular outings to the park and gym tots where they can socialise with others. They visit the library and the shops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Positive relationships formed with parents contributes to children feeling confident and secure in the childminder's care. Arrangements for their care are discussed with parents as part of the settling-in routines to ensure the childminder is clear about their individual routines and any particular requirements they may have. Sharing information at the end of the day ensures parents and the childminder keep up-to-date with children's activities and individual needs. Written records are maintained for each child, however, the required written parental consents have not been obtained to confirm parents' wishes regarding the care of their child, for example, consent to travel in a vehicle. Clear behaviour management strategies, such as consistent boundaries, praise and encouragement, help children understand what is expected of them and consequently behave well. They learn about the importance of waiting for their turn when sharing equipment at gym tots and taking care with others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's care. Appropriate safety precautions in most areas means they have suitable areas for rest, play and refreshment. Children have access to a selection of resources and are supervised well as they play. Most documentation is in place, although, some written records have not been completed. Details of the service provided and arrangements for managing children's care are usually discussed with parents, although, procedures for protecting children from the risk of infection are not robust. The childminder has completed the initial childminder training and a first aid course to provide her with the knowledge to promote positive outcomes for children. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 satisfactory. 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 suitable range of resources and activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs
- review understanding of the National Standards and ensure required written parental consents are obtained, namely for the administration of medication, seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and to travel in a vehicle
- devise and implement a policy about the exclusion of children who are ill or infectious and share with parents
- ensure all low level glass in areas used by the children is protected or inaccessible.

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