



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 112710 |
| Inspection date | 20 February 2007 |
| Inspector | Lynn Reeves |
| 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 1988. She lives with her husband and their adult son in a residential area of Elson, Gosport in Hampshire. The property is within close proximity to local schools, pre-schools, shops and parks. The childminder is registered to provide care for six children aged under eight years and is currently minding five children on a part and full-time basis. The childminder also cares for children aged over eight years, and works in partnership with her husband who is also a registered childminder.

The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding, in addition to the bathroom on the first floor of the home. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and regularly attends a local toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected because the childminder has procedures in place to keep children free from infection. For example, the childminder does not accept sick children into her care, cleans all toys and play equipment on a regular basis and ensures appropriate procedures are in place for nappy changing. Children learn the importance of good hygiene procedures through discussion and are developing their self-help skills through routines. For example, they wash their hands before eating and after toileting, they are provided with individual towels and help themselves to tissues to blow their noses.

Children develop their understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of exercise, as they participate in outdoor activities in the garden and when playing over at the local parks. They develop control of their bodies as they bend and stretch when dancing to music and develop their large muscle control when playing on the climbing frame, scooters and ride the sit-on-toys in the garden. Children's small muscle control is developed when they take part in various activities, for example, cooking, painting, making things, digging in the garden and building with construction toys. Children take part in lots of physical activities, rest and sleep when tired and help themselves to drinks when thirsty. The childminder has a very good understanding about appropriate types of activities and promotes a healthy lifestyle with exercise, diet, sleep, fresh air and healthy eating.

Children benefit from the childminders good promotion of healthy eating, they learn to understand what is good for them when they discuss what they are eating and drinking, and what makes them big and strong. Opportunities are maximised for children to talk together about the foods they enjoy, they help to buy the ingredients when cake making and taste different foods. The childminder provides children with fresh fruit and vegetables on a daily basis and plans menus for parents. The childminder has procedures in place for recording accidents and administering medication; she has a suitable first aid qualification in place and obtains the required parental signatures to support children's health and well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children access a child friendly environment where their own designs are displayed on the walls developing their sense of belonging. Learning posters and the good selection of colourful toys and play provisions enhance children's learning. Resources are stored at low level in the playroom, which promotes children's independence and choices. These are colourful, vibrant and of good quality, meeting safety standards.

The home is safe and secure where potential risks have been identified and minimised, for example, cupboard locks, plug covers and stair gates. Appropriate smoke detectors, fire blanket and fire procedure are in place, although, evacuations are not practised with the children to help keep them safe in an emergency. Children are made aware of dangers through general conversations, daily routines and gentle reminders. For example, they know it is important not

to leave small pieces of toys on the floor in case young children choke or fall over, and they are reminded not to climb on the furniture in case they get hurt. Children explain how they have learnt about road safety, for example, that the red light means the traffic will stop, and the green man means they can walk across the road. They are taught to hold hands or on to the buggy when walking and discuss stranger danger.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures; she is able to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. Parents are made aware of the childminder's responsibilities and she is fully aware of whom she should report any concerns to, which ensures children are protected from further harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thoroughly enjoy their time at the setting as they have many opportunities to develop an extensive range of skills. Children are very happy and settled in their environment, which is stimulating, exciting and interesting. They move from activity to activity with great confidence and independence. One child decides to draw on the blackboard, and turns to another child and says 'this is you, I am giving you a smiley face', another child finds a programmable toy and sits on the floor, pushing the buttons and lighting the lights.

Children enjoy a wonderful range of activities and experiences suitable for their age and individual abilities, which are often linked to themes developed from their own interest. For example, the children have produced a weekly activity sheet for the holidays, which includes making treasure boxes with collage materials, and a plan to go on an outing to collect treasure to fill them. Children celebrate Chinese new year, making lanterns, flags and fans, then do a cooking activity relating to this. Children also make use of re-cycled plastic bottles to make skittles, lanterns, music and rain makers.

Children thrive because the childminder has a good knowledge of childcare development and recognises the importance of play in a child's learning. The childminder has a sound knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework, and adapts activities to ensure that young children can take part. For example, all children are provided with glue sticks and scissors to cut up tissue paper, wool, foam shapes and card and develop their fine motor skills as they use the relevant tools and creative skills to decorate their treasure boxes.

Children use their imagination well with role-play, for example, as children play with the house, they turn this into a bakery, act out the character and pretend to put on their apron to bake the cup cakes. They say they must go to Asda not the Co-op to buy the ingredients where they find a shopping trolley and go off to buy some eggs. They laugh as they inform adults they will need some money from the cash machine.

The childminder is affectionate and responds well to children's needs, knowing when to stand back to let their play develop and giving the children cuddles when they are tired. Activities are differentiated to enable all children to participate in group and one to one activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that all children can participate in activities and constantly praises and encourages the children throughout the day promoting their self-esteem. She gets to know the children and their families well. Children are provided with a range of meaningful activities and resources that teach them about the wider world. For example, they celebrate a range of festivals that include, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Easter and Christmas. They access toys that reflect diversity, such as, dressing-up clothes, ethnic figures, books, puzzles and musical instruments and take part in cooking and food tasting activities. Children have opportunities to visit various places of interest and learn about their local community and environment as they visit the park and beach, and travel on the bus and local ferry boat.

The childminder maintains a positive approach to caring for children with learning difficulties, disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language and deals with unwanted behaviour in a calm and consistent manner. Children behave very well, they share, take-turns and respect each other's space. They develop a clear understanding of what is right from wrong and learn the rules within the setting. They are constantly praised and given clear explanations in a language they understand, which helps promote their good behaviour. Strategies used are fully discussed with parents to ensure a consistent approach.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents; children's individual needs are discussed during arrival and collection time regarding their child's activities, sleeping, toileting and eating patterns. All required written consent and documentation is signed by parents, however, there is no formal complaint procedure in place. Daily activities and routines are monitored and reviewed; evidence of children's work is sent home and photographic material is available regarding the activities children have taken part in.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child development, including the Birth to three matters framework and children benefit from a well-organised, safe, secure and stimulating environment. The children are confident, happy and relaxed in their environment. They move freely around the setting, accessing the good range of toys and equipment available to them. Children are suitably protected by the readily available documentation held by the childminder. Children enjoy their time with the childminder because resources and activities are planned well and provide significant challenges; as a result, 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 was asked: to make sure all existing injuries are recorded and shared with parents; make sure that glass panels in outdoor storage are made safe or inaccessible to children; and to make sure the register accurately records who is responsible for minded children on a daily basis.

Since the last inspection the childminder has addressed all of these recommendations, which ensures children's safety.

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):

- practise the procedure in place for evacuating the premises in the event of a fire with children to ensure that can exit safely
- further develop the written complaints procedure to include the requirement to keep a record of complaints

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