



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111363
Inspection date	13 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 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 1993. She is registered to provide care for five children. Registration also includes overnight care for two children. The childminder currently provides care for 12 children on part-time basis. The childminder lives with her husband, mother in law and three children, in a residential area of Fareham, within close proximity to local shops, pre-school and community parks. All areas of the home are accessible to the children with the exception of the master bedroom. There is a rear garden area suitable for the children to access outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends groups for children on a regular basis. The family have a pet dog in the home.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children experience a clean and hygienic environment because the childminder has effective procedures in place to promote their good health and to prevent the spread of infection. Children learn good personal hygiene as they are required to wash their hands at appropriate times, for example after using the toilet, touching the family pet, before meals and after outside play. Younger children are provided with hand wipes and toys and equipment are cleaned regularly to prevent cross contamination. The childminder protects children as she does not accept them into her care if they are infectious. They are cared for effectively if an accident occurs or if they are ill as the childminder has a current first aid qualification and a well maintained, easily accessible first aid kit.

Children have their individual needs effectively met as the childminder has documentation in place to ensure she is aware of their individual health and dietary requirements. Their dietary needs are catered for as the childminder supplies their meals. She promotes healthy eating and the children benefit from having an occasional sweet biscuit and fresh fruit for snack time. Children benefit from nutritious, wholesome, home made dinners such as chicken korma, chicken nuggets, sausage and mash with a cake or rice pudding for desert. Children enjoy the healthy foods the childminder provides and the childminder ensures they receive fresh drinks throughout their time at the setting. As a result children are well nourished and healthy eating is well promoted at the setting.

Children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise and are able to use the decking area in the rear garden in most weathers. They also enjoy regular trips to the local toddler groups, socialising with other childminder's and visits to local community parks and soft play areas. Consequently, children's physical fitness is well promoted and visits into the local community extend their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure within the setting as effective procedures are in place to prevent them from leaving the home unsupervised or with an unidentified adult. Necessary precautions have been addressed to prevent hazards, for example socket covers are used, chemicals and hazards are inaccessible and stair gates are in place. There are fire safety precautions in place such as smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher, however, children are not fully protected as the fire blanket is not sited for use effectively in the event of an emergency.

Children are able to use equipment and the environment safely as furniture and resources are checked regularly, maintained and conform to safety standards. Toys are appropriate to the children's stage of development, ensuring they are suitable for use and do not present a hazard. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder has safety procedures in place, for example she uses buggies and suitable car seating. They are also learning about hazards and dangers

as the childminder talks to them about how to cross the road safely, unfamiliar animals and people, and to stay where they can be seen.

The childminder has sound knowledge of signs and symptoms that could cause concern in regard to child protection, existing injuries are recorded and the childminder is aware of how to report her concerns, ensuring their welfare is maintained.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the home with the childminder and family members. They are confident in the home and interact well with the childminder. They participate fully in play which evidences how they feel secure, relaxed and have good self esteem. The childminder knows the children well; she develops warm and trusting relationships with them and provides good care and learning opportunities which promote development and are of interest to the children.

Children are becoming competent learners because they have a varied selection of resources and activities that provide interest, fun and stimulation. For example, children enjoy problem solving as they fit together the wooden train track or figure out how the garage works and show delight as they knock down the skittles when bowling. Resources are stored on open shelving in the dining area or low level in boxes in the lounge. As a result children are able to initiate their own choice of play which develops responsibility and independence. Activities are age appropriate for the children and offer challenge which develops their learning, concentration and communication with others.

Children are becoming skilful communicators because the childminder has good interpersonal skills. She interacts extremely well, making good eye contact and fully includes herself in their play. They receive lots of attention and cuddles helping them feel secure which develops self esteem and a sense of belonging. Children's individual care and learning needs are met as the childminder takes the time to get to know the children and provides an environment where they are encouraged to enjoy and achieve.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn about the wider world as they have some resources that reflect diversity such as books, puzzles and small world figures and the childminder uses the local library to provide resources that reflect diversity. As a result children begin to gain respect for others. Children also gain an understanding of the local community and environment when they visit the local parks, toddler groups and soft play areas. The childminder has some understanding of equal opportunities and has awareness and experience of caring for children with additional needs. Children's individual needs are discussed with parents and a suitable record kept to ensure an appropriate care package is in place.

Children's behaviour is good at the setting and they begin to learn what is acceptable behaviour through positive techniques such as discussion, distraction and lots of praise and encouragement. The childminder has simple house rules which she explains to the children; she has a calm

manner and uses methods that are age appropriate with realistic expectations of children. Behaviour issues are discussed with parents to ensure a consistent approach.

Parents are welcomed into the home and the childminder gives them time to discuss how the day has been and what the children have done, strengthening the partnership with parents. The required documentation is signed by parents, which ensures children's care and welfare. The certificate of registration is on display, however, the complaints log is not currently in a format for parents to view on request.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children experience an organised environment which is managed effectively by the childminder. They have their individual needs met as the required documentation and working practices are in place and undertaken to support their care, learning, safety and wellbeing, with a minor weakness noted in regard to positioning of the fire blanket. Information about some working practices and policies is available to parents and all required documentation is maintained, shared and co-signed where required, however, with weakness noted in regard to the register of attendance and complaints log. Children are protected from unvetted persons and ratios are maintained. Children enjoy their time at the setting; they are happy and relaxed and develop positive relationships with the childminder. She has an understanding of the requirements of registration and maintains National 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 the flooring is comfortable, clean and hygienic for children's use; improve fire safety precautions by maintaining smoke alarms in the rooms used to provide overnight care; make sure that electric sockets in areas accessible to children are fitted with socket covers; record information about children's individual needs and incidents of behaviour; request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment, contact with animals and for travelling in a motor vehicle.

The childminder now limits the dog's access to the children's play area which ensures a clean environment for their use. For younger children a sleeping bag is also used to provide comfortable flooring for their play. A smoke alarm has now been fitted to the bedroom used to provide overnight care which promotes fire safety and electric sockets have covers fitted which prevent children from accessing and improves safety. Records are maintained that record children's individual needs and preferences and documentation is in place to record incidents of behaviour. Written consent has now been obtained from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment, contact with animals and for travelling in a motor vehicle. These improvements have a positive impact on the health and safety of children and overall organisation.

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 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):

- ensure fire blanket is sited for ease of use in the event of an emergency
- ensure the complaints log is in a format for parents to view on request
- ensure the register of attendance is undertaken when children are present to reflect accurate attendance.

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