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Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY261986
Inspection date	23 March 2007
Inspector	Kate Houghton

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 outstanding. 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 2003. She lives with her husband and three children in a three bedroomed property in the Southsea area of Portsmouth.

The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools, childminding groups, toddler groups and takes children to the local parks and beach.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children, all of whom attend on a full and part-time basis.

The childminder has a pet cat, guinea pigs and a hamster.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The childminder is also a member of the local Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective arrangements in place to support their individual dietary needs. The childminder works closely with parents and obtains information about children's likes, dislikes and any specific dietary needs. Information is detailed in child records and referred to by the childminder when planning food menus. This ensures children's mealtime arrangements are managed safely and in line with parents wishes. Children benefit from the childminder's experience and knowledge. For example, she supports parents and offers advice, guidance and suggested menus to help them make informed choices about children's dietary needs. Children are being introduced to textured foods and enjoy eating a more varied range of food types, including finger foods. The menu's for children are consistently reviewed and discussed with parents with regard for children's developing needs. As a result, this promotes their health and growth needs effectively.

Children benefit from the effective methods used by the childminder to support nappy changing procedures. She makes children comfortable on soft surfaces and wears disposable gloves when changing nappies. Soiled items are disposed of safely and all areas are routinely cleaned with anti-bacterial spray. This ensures, the possible spread of germs and infection are minimised and children remain clean, comfortable and cared for safely throughout the day.

Children benefit from purposeful activities to help them understand the importance of health and hygiene as part of the daily routine. Their developing independence is supported well and encouraged by the childminder. Children are learning to wash their hands at regular times and benefit from using a varied range of facilities. For example, a toilet training seat, potty, small step, liquid soap and hand towels are within easy reach for children to use and support their personal care needs. Planned activities for older children include opportunities to help them learn about the importance of hygiene. For example, children enjoy bringing their hair brushes and toothbrushes from home. They practise brushing their hair and cleaning their teeth. This promotes effective opportunities for children to develop their self care skills.

The childminder provides all children with a varied range of physical play activities. Younger children benefit from visiting groups with the childminder. She uses different methods to help children develop their physical skills in all areas. For example, the childminder takes a soft rug for children to play on and promotes opportunities for children to access a varied range of toys and activities. Children enjoy stretching and wriggling about and enjoy access to soft toys, rattles and activity toys. As a result, this provides effective opportunities for children to gain control and strength in their large body movements and develop their fine motor skills. The childminder observes children regularly and keeps up to date with their development. She talks to parents about their growing needs and uses information obtained effectively to help children gain the most from their play. Children achieve a sense of belonging and enjoy a stimulating environment where they can observe and participate in what is going on around them. This is achieved well, because the childminder offers excellent levels of support for children. She provides a range of resources including floor cushions, a low-chair and play carousel. This ensures children are supported, comfortable, secure and safe when participating in play activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from accessing warm, bright, welcoming and homely surroundings. The childminder organises her home environment well and provides a range of facilities to support the care needs of children. For example, quiet areas provided are comfortable. This ensures, children feel secure and enjoy restful sleep during the daytime. Play areas include an exciting range of toys and activities for children to access easily. Toys and equipment are of good quality, well maintained and checked regularly. This ensures, children benefit from safe play experiences.

The childminder takes positive steps to ensure children are protected from any potential dangers within the home and outside. The childminder checks areas routinely and carries out formal risk assessments. This ensures, children's safety and security within the home and outside is fully supported and promoted. The childminder uses effective methods such as explanation, discussion and play activities to help children gain an early awareness and understanding to the importance of safety. Children know not to talk to strangers and activities provided include the use of age appropriate books and stories. As a result, children learn about keeping themselves safe. Children benefit from learning about how to cross roads safely. They are introduced to people who help them, for example, the school crossing patrol and the childminder plans activities to include topics about safety. For example, children enjoy participating in the "traffic light game" and gain from the play experiences provided to help them learn how the traffic light system works. As a result, effective opportunities provided by the childminder increase children's learning and understanding of safety.

The childminder has a clear knowledge and understanding of procedures she will follow to safeguard the needs of children in her care. Child protection Surestart referral procedures are illustrated in the parent information packs. The childminder's child protection policy is detailed clearly and includes the steps the childminder will take to protect children in her care. This ensures, parents are aware, up to date and clearly informed about the childminder's role and responsibilities. As a result, children are secure and their welfare is promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy close levels of supervision and excellent care. The childminder uses information obtained from parents to actively support the care needs of children attending. Children gain from the childminder's positive interaction and caring responses. They enjoy close time and benefit from her gentle approach and calm manner. Children enjoy nurturing care and clearly enjoy their breakfast time and eat well. Children respond with interest to the childminder. They listen intently to conversation and make eye contact. They are helped to develop their communication skills and are using non-verbal gestures to communicate their feelings and needs. The childminder works closely with parents and adopts similar care patterns that children enjoy at home. As a result, children are secure, happy and at ease within their environment.

Children are building meaningful relationships with the childminder. They are actively encouraged to develop their skills and enjoy a varied range of activities and play with age appropriate toys and resources. Children enjoy handling toys and explore different textures, fabrics and materials when playing with soft toys. They are learning to make sense of their surroundings and developing their sensory skills through play.

Children benefit from the childminder's excellent understanding of child development. The childminder knows where children's starting points are because she actively seeks information from parents. Parents detail their own comments and observations in children's records and continued observations are made by the childminder to monitor the progress children are making. The childminder plans and provides an exciting range of activities for children, supported effectively by the use of the Birth to three matters framework. This enables, the childminder to monitor children's development closely and share information with parents. As a result, children are helped to make sound progress in their development and systems in place promote positive outcomes for children to enjoy and achieve.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder gives high regard to finding out about children's individual or specific care needs. She works closely with parents and obtains necessary information from parents. For example, information is detailed on child records and includes children's daily care routines, health and medical needs, religious requirements and cultural needs. The childminder reviews information regularly and keeps up to date with any changes. This ensures, children are fully supported, relaxed and happy in their surroundings.

Anti-discrimination is clearly promoted. All children are welcomed and valued. Children access all toys and resources and enjoy play with a wide ranging and balanced range of play provision. Excellent opportunities are provided for children to gain a positive view of the world around them. Activities and resources provided by the childminder help children to gain an early understanding and knowledge about different festivals, cultures, beliefs and lifestyles.

The childminder's behaviour management policy is shared with parents and methods to be used with children agreed. Children benefit from the childminder's clear and sensible approach to behaviour management. The childminder uses effective and age appropriate methods to support the individual needs of children in her care. For example, diversion, distraction, explanation, discussion and limited time out are used to help children learn about boundaries. Children are contented, happy and well behaved. They benefit from the childminder's positive feedback, responses and caring approach. As a result, they are building trusting and warm relationships with her.

The childminder promotes highly effective partnership with parents. Parents are actively encouraged to visit the childminder in her home and the time spent with her is purposeful. For example, during initial visits parents are provided with all the information about the service the childminder provides. Further visits are arranged for parents to visit with their child and these opportunities provide parents with a chance to agree and sign necessary paperwork. This time also enables parents and children to familiarise themselves with their surroundings and establish positive relationships with the childminder and her family as part of the settling in process.

Input from parents is valued by the childminder. She actively seeks to gain parents views about the service she provides and uses information to assess and review her provision. Parents state that they are happy with the care provided and include positive examples to highlight the ongoing success's the childminder achieves for all children within her provision. Parents receive a range of useful and clearly detailed information provided in the parent pack. Parents are clearly aware, informed and up to date about children's daily care routines and all activities they enjoy. Regular feedback is provided for parents and includes verbal discussion, written

daily diaries, photographs, progress and development reports. Parents are encouraged to make comments and add their own information and observations. This ensures, all adults involved in children's care communicate effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from a highly organised care environment. Children enjoy and receive an excellent level of quality care. The childminder is committed to on going training opportunities and is an active member of the local childminder network. The childminder keeps up to date with any information provided by the regulator and makes the necessary changes to her organisation as and when required. This ensures, all areas of the provision are running in line with requirements and securely underpin all aspects of care provided for children.

All required documentation is in place and securely supports and promotes the care, safety, health and welfare of children. Records are detailed accurately, frequently reviewed and kept up to date to share with parents. All documentation is easily accessible when needed, efficiently filed, stored securely and maintained for confidentiality.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were raised.

The first recommendation relates to ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are kept in appropriate detail.

Improvements have been made and all required documentation held by the childminder is completed in full and detailed accurately to share with parents. This ensures, procedures are followed to fully support all areas of care for children attending.

The second recommendation relates to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Improvements have been made and children benefit from accessing a varied range of activities and resources to help them develop a positive view of differences within our society. Resources include different coloured skin toned crayons, jigsaws, books depicting all kinds of beliefs, all kinds of homes, small world play and National dress role play costumes. Topics and themes are planned for by the childminder and include exciting activities linked to different festivals. For example, children learn about Diwali, Chinese New year and Bonfire night. This helps them to develop an early understanding of how different traditions and customs are celebrated around the 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 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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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