

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113178
Inspection date	27 March 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 1994. She lives with her husband and their daughter in a residential area of Denmead in Hampshire. The childminder is registered to provide care for six children aged under eight years and is currently minding seven children aged under eight years on a part and full time basis. She also cares for children aged over eight years.

The property is within walking distance of local schools, shops and parks. The childminder chooses to use the ground floor only for childminding and there is a fully secure garden available for outdoor play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the family have two dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about their own personal hygiene through daily routines, for example, they wash their hands prior to eating, after playing in the garden, after toileting and after stroking the pets. Procedures are in place for care of the family pets and the precautions to keep children

free from infection or allergies. Children are protected from the spread of infection through the effective procedures and practices the childminder has in place, for example, wearing disposable gloves when nappy changing and not accepting sick children into her care. Play provisions are checked for damage and washed regularly to prevent cross contamination.

Children get gentle exercise and fresh air on a daily basis when either walking to school or walking the dogs. They enjoy a range of outdoor activities, which aids their physical development. For example, they play on the slide, rockers and ride the sit-on-toys in the garden and visit the local parks. Children have fun when acting out the actions to their favourite songs and nursery rhymes, for example, the Hokey Cokey and Wheels on the bus; they laugh and giggle as the childminder joins in with their play.

Children are provided with a range of healthy snacks in addition to meals sent from home. Children have access to drinks throughout the time they are in the childminder's care, which ensures they do not go thirsty. Children's health is protected by the procedures in place for administering medication, dealing with injuries and recording all accidents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a comfortable, cosy and relaxed environment where they can move freely and in safety around the allotted areas. They are able to make their own choices of play, as toys are stored at low level to encourage independence. Children are provided with a range of colourful, vibrant and stimulating toys that are rotated to ensure they are kept stimulated and experience new things.

Children are kept safe because the childminder has removed any potential risks to children and ensures the premises are kept secure. The childminder keeps the children under close supervision and carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children learn how to stay safe as they are reminded to sit still on chairs and not to climb on the furniture. They discuss road safety issues when walking and are reminded to hold hands or onto the buggy. Suitable smoke detectors and a fire blanket are in place, although there is no written emergency procedure or evacuations practised with the children, to ensure their overall safety in the event of a fire.

Children are well protected through the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues, she knows who to report her concerns to and her responsibilities are shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very relaxed and feel at home in their surroundings as they confidently move around and select what activities they want to play with, for example, trains and tracks, musical and programmable toys, books and drawing materials. The childminder knows the children well and provides activities that interest them. Children respond well to the childminder as she praises them for their efforts and turn to her for cuddles when they are tired. They enjoy her company as she takes an interest in what they are doing. For example, they laugh and giggle as they all listen and dance to familiar tunes playing on the television, and as the childminder hops and skips over the carpet tiles with the children to develop their co-ordination.

Children enjoy what they are doing and have fun; they remain fully occupied and engaged in the activities. Children use their imagination well as they play on the floor with the programmable toys, pushing the buttons to make the animals pop up and rolling the trains around the tracks. Children are becoming competent communicators as one child recalls her visit to the zoo. She chats confidently about the different animals she saw, for example, the giraffes, the monkeys and the meerkats. Children have regular opportunities to read books, play with role-play resources, participate in messy play and watch DVDs. They attend parent and toddler groups, play and praise sessions and regularly meet with other childminders and their children where they develop their social skills and interaction.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual care needs are met because the childminder takes the time to get to know what they are. She builds strong relationships with the children and their parents and ensures that the required information is shared to help children settle. Children are treated as individuals and are constantly praised for their efforts and good behaviour throughout the day. Children learn about the wider world as they play with a wide range of resources that reflect diversity, explore the local environment when they walk to the park and woods and attend the play and praise session at the local church.

Children behave very well, they know exactly what is expected of them; they use their manners well and receive lots of hugs and cuddles, which help develop their sense of belonging. The childminder uses consistent methods to promote good behaviour; she talks to the children in a calming manner, and then asks them to say sorry, so they gain an understanding of right from wrong. The childminder has some experience of working with children who have special needs. She is happy to liaise with other agencies and works closely with the parents to ensure continuity of care.

The childminder maintains good relationships with the parents, sharing information at collection and handover time either verbally or via written diaries. The required parental signatures are obtained; however, the procedure to record complaints and share this with parents has not been developed. The childminder promotes an open house procedure where she is happy for parents to visit at any time to discuss the needs of their child. This helps to secure the relationships between the childminder, the children and their parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder provides a friendly environment where children are comfortable and feel at home. Indoor play space is laid out to maximise children's play opportunities and where they have easy access to resources. Children are provided with a vast selection of play opportunities to keep them stimulated and happy. Most procedures and practices in place contribute to children's health, safety and well-being. Parents are welcomed into the home and kept informed of the care provided for their children through daily discussions at handover time. The childminder is aware that the information she holds about children is confidential so is careful to keep it safe. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to ensure the children's full names are recorded on all records. Since the last inspection the provider has introduced systems to ensure that children's full names are recorded on all records. This procedure helps to promote children's health and safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 1: Suitable Person. The complaint related to the provider caring for more children than she is registered for. An Ofsted inspector visited the provider to investigate the concerns. The childminder admitted that she had been over her registered numbers for several Mondays. The childminder agreed to reduce her numbers and a warning letter was issued. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

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):

- introduce a written fire plan and implement a procedure to keep children safe in the event of a fire
- develop a system to investigate and record details of any complaints making the details available to parents

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