

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	155517
Inspection date	14 May 2007
Inspector	Rosemary Musgrove

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and two children in Goring by Sea, near Worthing, West Sussex. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children and is currently minding two children on a part-time basis.

The family have a hamster, dog and fish.

The childminder takes children to the library and local beach. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children have regular opportunities to enjoy the fresh air and develop their physical co-ordination skills. Most days, children play in the garden, go for a walk to the beach or ride on their own scooters.

The childminder maintains clear records when a child has an accident. She has requested written parental permission to obtain emergency medical treatment. The childminder has, in the past, attended first aid training; however, she does not hold a current certificate. Children who are infectious do not attend, in order to prevent the spread of contagious ailments.

The childminder has an understanding of appropriate food and snacks. Before school, children have a bowl of cereal and a drink. In the evening, children choose their meal. They enjoy fish with a selection of cold vegetables, such as peppers, celery and cucumber. Drinks are available at all times.

Children are cared for in a clean house and the kitchen is suitable for the preparation of food. However, the outside garden poses a health risk to children, as there is dog excrement on the lawn. The childminder encourages healthy living, for example, children clean their teeth after breakfast and wash their hands before eating dinner.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a comfortable house with suitable accommodation. They have enough space, both indoors and outside in the garden. Children choose from a range of resources such as the computer, board games, or role play equipment.

Children play in a home where the childminder is aware of a number of potential hazards. She has implemented some safety measures to protect children from harm and to keep them safe. These include a fireguard in the lounge and stair gates for use with young children. Before minded children arrive, the childminder checks that chemicals are out of their reach and that knives are secure in a kitchen drawer. The childminder knows how she would evacuate her house in an emergency. She has three smoke detectors and a fire blanket.

The childminder has an understanding of how to keep children safe on outings. She makes sure they sit in the correct car seat, asks them to hold her hand when walking along a road and makes sure that the children are never far ahead of her.

The childminder has some understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. She has the guidance to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Currently, the childminder looks after children before and after school. Children choose whether they would prefer to play outside or inside the childminder's home.

Outside, minded children enjoy playing on the new trampoline or happily play a game of football alongside the childminder's family. One evening a week, the childminder takes the minded children for swimming lessons at a nearby pool. Inside the house, children relax on the sofa after their day at school and play on the Nintendo. A favourite activity is computer games; minded children socialise and play alongside the childminder's family as they select animals and create their own imaginary zoo.

The childminder talks to children about their day at school. She is aware of important events in their day. For example, children talk with her about their recent trip to the Sea Life centre and enthusiastically describe the sharks, fish and turtles.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder is aware of the needs of individual children. She has a written equal opportunities policy; this states that she treats all minded children as part of her family. The childminder has a limited understanding of diversity; this means that there are minimal resources and activities that encourage children to develop a positive view of other cultures. Children learn about the local community when they go swimming, take the dog for a walk or go to the local library.

The childminder has not cared for a child with a learning difficulty or disability. However, she is willing to consider looking after a child with a specific requirement.

The childminder uses a range of behaviour strategies. These include telling children what is right and wrong and having certain expectations; however, the naughty stair does not promote the children's welfare or help them to develop a good self-esteem.

Parents can talk to the childminder at the end of each day. If an issue arises during the day, the childminder sends parents a text message. This means that parents know about their child's care. Current minded parents are happy with the service provided and appreciate the childminder's role in providing a link between home and school.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children play in a home that is organised to give them enough clear space indoors and in the garden. They have appropriate resources and enough adult attention. This means they can play and relax before and after school.

The childminder has some of the required records and documentation in place and some of these are satisfactorily maintained. However, her record of attendance is unclear and is not up to date and she does not have the required system in place to record a log of parental complaints. The childminder understands the importance of confidentiality and the children's records are securely stored. Parents are welcome to discuss their child's care on a daily basis. This contributes to the continuity of the children's care.

The childminder does not have a full understanding of the National Standards and the amendments and this compromises the care and well-being of the children.

The childminder does not meet 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 provide a complaints procedure to all parents and to obtain a copy of local child protection procedures.

The childminder now has a copy of local child protection and safeguarding procedures. Parents have been told what to do if they wish to make a complaint.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- regularly assess garden for health hazards to ensure it is safe and suitable for children's use
- develop knowledge and understanding of effective ways to manage children's behaviour in order to promote their welfare and development
- update knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and the amendments and take action where appropriate.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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