

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY277149
Inspection date	01 May 2007
Inspector	Lorraine Wardlaw
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 was registered in 2004. She lives with her school age daughter in the suburb of Millbrook in the city of Southampton. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under the age of eight and is currently minding four pre-school children, and one school aged child. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle when in the care of the childminder; they make good use of the garden running in the fresh air catching bubbles, jumping on the trampoline and access the park regularly. This helps to develop their physical skills as well as giving them exercise. Although the childminder has a clear understanding of how to promote children's health,

children's records for the consent to give medicine and the subsequent recording of medicines administered are not complete or clear, which is a mandatory requirement. Under three-year-olds are well protected from the sun because the childminder ensures they use sun cream and wear a hat. They are developing good personal hygiene routines which minimises the risk of cross infection. For example, a young child eagerly goes to stand on the step to reach the sink; they wash their hands and use individual paper towels. Children can recognise their individual toothbrush which they use after eating meals. Children enjoy nutritious meals, snacks and regular drinks. They are given a choice of healthy foods such as when a toddler chooses to eat a banana at snack time. Under three-year-olds are sympathetically encouraged to reach milestones in their development. For example a toddler, who is being toilet trained, is gently encouraged to use the toilet and receive plenty of praise when they are successful.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in an appropriately welcoming, safe indoor environment where some measures have been taken to ensure they are not at risk of accidental injury. For example, stair gates are in place and the home and garden is very secure but the toys are not organised so that children can freely access them safely. Children are gently reminded by the childminder, to look after themselves and keep safe, such as when they are asked to put their shoes on when playing in the garden. Children have fun when they practise the fire drill which is well recorded and helps them evacuate the home in an emergency. The childminder has effectively thought through her emergency procedures when children are taken out and about; they all wear individual, identification emergency tags. Children learn the green cross code when they cross roads and older children know the safety rules when at the park. Children are well protected from possible abuse because the childminder has a secure understanding of procedures to be taken and is keeping her knowledge well up to date; she is currently attending training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good variety of activities and experiences, when in the care of the childminder, which contributes positively to their development and achievements. They excitedly manipulate the play doh into shapes and use their imaginations when they pretend to make cakes. Children have regular opportunities to paint and to draw within the home. For example, a two-year-old draws an aeroplane with chalks, while the childminder reminds them that they regularly see planes, when playing in the garden and wave at them. Children enjoy a warm secure relationship with the childminder, who engages positively with the children, at their level. When children become a little sad she swiftly, turns it around to make them happy. For example, children enjoy putting sun cream on the childminder, but when the childminder touches a sore leg of a child, she goes on to tickle their feet and make them laugh. Children have lots of social experiences outside the home too, such as visits to toddler groups, toy and book libraries and visits to the shops. The childminder has regard to the Birth to three matters framework and has begun to make written observations of children's development. Young children's communication skills are promoted by the childminder through lots of talking and the use of books.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected, as the different individuals that they are, by the childminder who has a sound understanding of their needs and background. Children play with a good selection of toys that help them appreciate all people in society. For example, they play with a doll in a wheelchair. Time is taken each day to discuss the children's needs with each parent which contributes to their continuity of care. The childminder is friendly and helpful towards parents which helps to build positive relationships with them and in turn impacts on the children's care. Appropriate written information about the service is shared with parents, such as brief, personal policies. However, the childminder's understanding of the complaints policy and complaints log book, for parents is not clear. Children benefit from the childminder's very positive approach to behaviour management and receive lots of praise from her. As a consequence children behave well and have good manners. Older children who display inappropriate behaviour are firmly told what is acceptable and should their behaviour continue, realistic sanctions are then put into place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are clearly happy in the relaxed, home from home environment. They receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident and their day is planned well to ensure they are content and stimulated. There is appropriate use and organisation of the space within the home. The childminder has attended workshops to increase her knowledge of the outcomes for children, which has been beneficial to the children in some of the outcome areas. Although most of the necessary documentation is in place, some mandatory records are incomplete, which has an impact on some of the outcomes for children. The childminder has good regard to confidentiality and displays her registration certificate in the hall for parents to see. 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 given five recommendations. The first was to ensure the attendance register is up to date and accurate at all times, showing times of arrival and departure. This has been completed which is a regulatory requirement. The second was to ensure floor surfaces are safe for young children and babies; the hall floor has now been made safe for babies to crawl, if necessary. The third was to make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. Although the childminder has a lot of information for parents about complaints, she is not clear on the procedure herself and the summary log to record complaints to share with all parents is not complete. Therefore, this remains a recommendation. The fourth recommendation was to make safe low level glass; this has been completed in the lounge which impacts positively on children's safety. The final recommendation was to provide a record of medication administered to children. Although some medicines administered have been recorded correctly since the last inspection, the latter entries in the record book are not complete enough and clear to wholly protect children's health. Therefore this remains a recommendation and will be carried forward.

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 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):

- organise toys so children can freely and safely self select them
- develop understanding of how to deal with complaints, update policy in line with regulation and share with parents
- ensure there is clear system for recording the consent from parents and the recording of medicines administered

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