

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY309089
Inspection date	01 May 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 2005. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for one child on a part-time basis. The childminder lives with her daughter in a house in a residential area of Ann's Hill, Gosport in Hampshire. Local shops, community parks, Brockhurst and St Mary's Schools are within walking distance of the home. The ground floor of the property is predominantly used for childminding with the first floor accessed by invitation only. There is a fully enclosed rear garden area available for outside play. The family have guinea pigs and goldfish as pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends groups for children on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a setting that is clean, comfortable and suitable for use. They are encouraged to follow good hygiene procedures, such as washing hands after outside play, feeding the guinea pig, after toileting and before meals. The childminder supports younger children to ensure they also learn good hygiene practices by providing them with a wipe for

their face and hands. Consequently they develop emerging personal care skills. These effective measures help children gain an increased understanding of good health and hygiene and prevent cross contamination. Children are cared for appropriately if an accident occurs as the childminder has a maintained first aid kit. However she does not currently hold a first aid qualification which does not fully ensure accidents or ill health will be dealt with effectively.

Children's routines are met and their individual health and dietary needs are identified as the childminder has the required documentation in place to ensure they receive an appropriate care package. Their dietary needs are catered for as the childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating. She provides a sandwich lunch, yogurts and plenty of fresh fruit for children and ensures they have regular fresh drinks and healthy snacks throughout the day. As a result, children gain an understanding of healthy eating and their nutritional needs are effectively met.

Children benefit from a wide selection of outside play resources in the rear garden. For example, they enjoy regular use of balls as they try to throw them into the small netball hoop, climbing frame and slide, scooter, see-saw, pushchairs and sit and ride toys. This contributes to their developing coordination and gross motor skills. Children's physical fitness is well promoted as they enjoy daily outings, visiting local community groups and amenities such as feeding the ducks, outings to soft play areas and daily walks to Brockhurst Junior School. The childminder also attends parent and toddler groups on a weekly basis which promotes opportunity for children to develop their social skills with peers and learn about the world around them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a secure environment which contributes to their safety. Most hazards have been addressed and minimised; however, weaknesses have been identified in regard to glass in display cabinets and the office door and access to plastic bags which does not fully promote children's safety. Children can independently select resources that are of good quality, meet safety standards and are stored appropriately. Resources are suitable and safe for the children's stage of development and monitored effectively, when in use, by the childminder. Children are well supervised and therefore kept safe. They gain a good understanding of staying safe when outside the home as the childminder talks about road safety, not talking to strangers and of not approaching unfamiliar animals. Children are secure in the home as there are effective procedures in place such as the front door being locked with the key removed. She has clear guidance from parents of who is able to collect children from her care and would agree alternative arrangements if required.

Children are protected because the childminder has the required documentation to record incidents and existing injuries. She has a sound understanding of possible signs and symptoms that may indicate a child is at risk and of her responsibility to act upon concerns noted in regard to child protection. Therefore children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have good learning experiences because they are provided with a varied range of activities and resources that are interesting and fun. For example, younger children enjoy imaginative play with a wealth of equipment and love to rock the dollies to sleep in the pushchair or make and serve drinks in the play kitchen. They benefit from attending parent and toddler

groups where they can participate in large structured group activities, art and craft and free play. As a result, they further develop their social skills with other children and adults therefore promoting independence and self confidence.

Children are developing communication skills through the childminder's consistent interaction with them. She engages well with the children on their level, making good eye contact and repeating familiar words for younger children to help develop their emerging vocabulary. Children enjoy her company and participation in play, often imitating her as they count the ball bouncing or giggle as they play hide and peep. The childminder extends children's learning through daily routines such as counting steps and general discussion in play. Children enjoy the company of the childminder and are confident to engage in play and select resources independently. They thrive in an environment where they are stimulated and show good levels of self-esteem which is promoted through the praise and encouragement they receive. They are happy in the setting and show genuine affection for the childminder as they enjoy a cuddle or laugh and pretend to cough so the childminder will once again pat their back. The childminder responds immediately to children's individual needs, she has a good understanding of how children learn and develop through play and offers an environment where children enjoy and achieve.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's awareness of equal opportunities and the use of appropriate documentation to ensure individual needs are met. They are beginning to learn about the wider world through activities and discussion such as making pasta pictures and celebrating Chinese New Year. They gain an increased understanding of the world around them as they walk daily to school or visit local amenities. The childminder has experience of caring for children with additional needs and is happy to work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure an appropriate care package.

Children begin to learn acceptable behaviour through positive methods such as discussion, distraction, occasional removal of toy and lots of praise and encouragement. The childminder has realistic expectations from children for their age and understanding. She has a warm friendly manner which children respond well to. Behaviour management techniques are discussed with parents to ensure a consistent approach.

Partnership with parents is promoted as they are welcomed into the home to discuss the day's events. Art work and photographs are shared which also gives parents an insight into their child's time at the setting. The childminder has a comprehensive portfolio which outlines her work practice and informs parents of how she meets the national standards. All documentation is shared and co-signed and certificates are displayed as required. Close working with parents has a positive impact on how children settle into the home and ensures their individual needs are identified and effectively met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home and play resources to ensure children benefit from a range of activities and where they can move freely, enabling them to make choices. Children have their individual needs addressed appropriately, as documentation and working practices are in place to support their care, learning and well-being. However, weaknesses have been identified

in regard to some aspects of safety and the requirement to hold a current first aid qualification. The childminder has an understanding of the requirements of her registration and all legally required documentation is in place. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 the safety of glass in display cabinets and office door and prevent children's access to plastic bags
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

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