

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112801
Inspection date	30 April 2007
Inspector	Alison Large
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 was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and two older children in the Basingstoke area of Hampshire. All areas of the ground floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day and two children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a varied range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health and physical development. The childminder recognises the benefits of daily exercise for the children and they have opportunities to develop their small and large muscles. The childminder provides

a good range of outdoor interests for the children, including balls, slide, wheeled toys and visits to the park.

Children begin to understand the benefits of healthy eating and are offered snacks which regularly include fruit. Younger children are offered regular drinks, while older children are able to request drinks which include water or squash, which ensures their needs are met.

Children become aware of the importance of good hygiene. They wash their hands under running water after using the toilet and before eating, which promotes an awareness of good health. Children's health is well promoted by the childminder, for example when preparing snacks and responding to accidents. However, the childminder has not ensured all her accident records have been signed by the parents, which means children's health is not fully protected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a welcoming environment, resources are stored accessibly to allow children to move around safely. The developmental needs of the children are met by the range of equipment that is made available to them, which is clean, safe and well maintained. The childminder rotates the toys regularly to ensure the children stay interested and stimulated. Children are able to independently select activities from a wide range of toys and equipment, which encourages them to make choices.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and pays high attention to ensuring risks and hazards are minimised and children's safety is promoted. Children are able to move freely and safely in the welcoming environment and the childminder ensures the children are under her supervision at all times. The childminder has all the required documents in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children build good relationships with the childminder and arrive happily and settle well. The childminder gets to know the children well and talks to them about their family and what they have been doing at home. This interaction helps the children develop a strong sense of trust and secures their relationship with the childminder. The children enjoy the childminder's company and engage in conversation with her, she joins their play, encouraging their social skills.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and develop their independence by being able to access a good range of resources. The childminder recognises the value of play in a child's development and introduces a range of experiences, enabling the children to play together as well as independently. Older children are able to enjoy different activities from the younger children, which are more suited to their developmental stages and ensures their individual needs are met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are valued and respected as individuals. Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do. They have time to relax as well as be active and develop confidence in selecting and making choices. Children are able to access some resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity, which helps them develop an understanding of others.

Children behave well, the childminder sets boundaries, and helps the younger children learn to share and take turns. She supports the younger children and uses plenty of praise and encouragement, commending children's achievements and developing their confidence. The children benefit from the childminder's good relationship with the parents. Information is exchanged daily, to keep them fully informed, which ensures the children's individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children are able to move around freely in the well organised environment, which maximises the play opportunities for the children. All the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, stored confidentially and regularly reviewed. The childminder has a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities as a childminder and ensures the children are able to engage happily in the activities. Information is shared with parents, and helps ensure the children's welfare and well-being is protected.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to undertake a first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and children. Since the last inspection the childminder has attended first aid training ensuring the health and welfare of the children is protected.

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 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):

- ensure all accidents have been countersigned by the 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