

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 112412
Inspection date 19 June 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 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 2000. She is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently caring for 16 children who all attend on a part-time basis either in the day, after school or over holiday periods. The childminder lives with her husband in a house in a residential area of Ashurst in Hampshire. Local shops, parks and Foxhill Infant and Junior Schools and Ashurst Preschool are within walking distance of the home. The ground floor of the property is predominantly used for childminding with an upstairs bedroom used for sleeping if required. The childminder has no pets. She 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 good.

Children have lots of opportunity to enjoy daily fresh air and exercise at the setting. In the rear garden they are able to use a good selection of wheeled toys, the rocker, sand pit and play house. Children also benefit from regular visits to Longdown Dairy Farm where they have season membership, regular walks in the New Forest, weekly visits to toddler group and daily walks

to local schools and preschool. These good opportunities help children develop gross motor skills, socialisation with others, promote physical fitness and extend knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Children benefit from a very clean and comfortable environment. Their good health is well promoted as the childminder encourages them to follow effective hygiene procedures, such as washing hands after outside play and toileting. Individual hand wipes are provided for children to use before eating and they are further protected from unnecessary illness as the childminder has a sick children policy which ensures they do not attend if they are infectious. These measures help the children gain an increased understanding of good health and hygiene and prevent cross contamination. Children are cared for effectively in emergency situations as there is a well maintained first aid kit and the childminder has a current first aid qualification.

Children have their individual needs efficiently met because the childminder has documentation in place to ensure she is aware of their personal requirements. Their dietary needs are effectively catered for as parents tend to supply meals, snacks and drinks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure within the setting and generally safe as most necessary precautions have been addressed to prevent hazards such as the use of socket covers and safety gates. However chemicals and hazardous materials are currently stored low level and accessible in the kitchen and cloakroom which does not fully ensure children's safety. Effective procedures are in place to prevent children leaving the home as the front door is locked with the key removed and the childminder ensures she is aware of who is due to collect children from her care with alternative arrangements agreed beforehand with parents.

Children are able to use equipment and the environment safely as furniture and resources are well maintained and conform to safety standards. Toys are well organised, cleaned and checked regularly and in good condition which ensures they are suitable for use and do not present a hazard to children. Children are gaining an increased understanding of how to stay safe and they are aware to stop, listen and think as the childminder helps them learn how to cross the road. She also discusses other dangers such as being cautious of unfamiliar animals and strangers. Children's welfare is generally maintained as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection and awareness of signs and symptoms which could cause concern. However existing injury information is not currently recorded which does not fully ensure concerns will be identified at the first possible instance and welfare maintained.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled. They are confident within the home and have good self-esteem evidenced by how well they interact with the childminder. They make choices and decisions for themselves about their play and benefit from the stimulating resources available. They spend their time purposefully and have good opportunity to develop their social skills and progress well in all areas. Children gain independence as they use their initiative to self-select between a variety of fun and interesting toys and equipment in the dedicated playroom. They enjoy exploring creativity as they make items such as spiders from junk modelling or express their imagination as they pretend to be a knight in the rear garden searching for a dragon. The childminder recognises the importance of play in a child's learning and uses effective questioning

to extend learning, for example by including counting and colour in general play and daily routines such as the weather chart which help children develop knowledge and understanding of the world. The childminder is affectionate and children benefit from warm and trusting relationships whereby they receive lots of time, attention and cuddles. Children thrive because of the strong support they have from the childminder; they enjoy their time in the setting and develop good communication and social skills through the childminder's consistent, positive interaction and involvement in play and activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn about others through playing with resources that reflect diversity such as dolls, small world figures and positive images portrayed in books and gain an understanding of the world around them as they regularly visit local parks, the New Forest and toddler group. Children receive continuity and an appropriate care package, because the childminder uses child information records, contracts and close working with parents. All children are valued as individuals as the childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and awareness and experience of caring for children who have additional needs.

Children at the setting behave very well. They learn acceptable behaviour because the childminder uses positive techniques such as gentle discussion, distraction, praise and encouragement and time out to think if required. This helps the children learn right from wrong and develop respect for others. Simple house rules and expectations are discussed with children and all behaviour management techniques are appropriate for the understanding of the child. Any incidents of concern are recorded and discussed with parents to ensure continuity of care and practice.

Children benefit from good partnership with parents as they are made very welcome into the home and given time to discuss the day's events and to share information. All forms are shared and co-signed and a letter of support from a parent regarding the service the childminder provides evidences how they are happy with the care and activities their children receive. The certificate of registration is displayed and there is documentation to record complaints and for parents to make comments on the childminder's service.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from an organised home where they are very happy, relaxed and comfortable. Their health and well-being is generally maintained through the childminder having sound procedures and most legally required documentation. However, weaknesses have been noted in regard to records to safeguard children and their access to some chemicals in the home. Children benefit from a secure and stimulating environment, where they are able to initiate their own choice of play and enjoy fun and purposeful activities. They are occupied throughout their time at the setting, as the childminder organises her time, activities and resources effectively. She has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process and maintains all National Standards. 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 recommended to obtain written permission in advance for medication given to children. Written permission has now been obtained from parents which ensures correct instruction for the administration of medication and therefore contributes to children's good health and overall organisation.

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 existing injuries are recorded to ensure concerns can be identified and acted upon and chemicals in the kitchen and cloakroom are inaccessible to 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