

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	150722
Inspection date	02 July 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 2001. She lives with her three older children in the Bishopstoke 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 five children under five all day and no children over five before and after school.

The childminder is able walk to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children begin to learn the importance of good hygiene in their daily routines, for example, when hand washing before eating and after using the toilet, they gain an understanding of their own personal care. Children's health is well promoted as the childminder has relevant first aid training and keeps the necessary records when responding to accidents. However, medication records are not completed as required, to ensure the health of the children is protected.

Children enjoy outdoor activities which contribute to their good health and physical development. Garden games, including wheeled toys, trampoline and swing, and regular visits to the park offer outdoor experiences for the children and improve their physical skills. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet and are offered a variety of snacks which include fruit. Children are offered regular drinks including water, milk or squash, which ensures their needs are met. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and meets each child's dietary needs to ensure they remain healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home where risks are identified and minimised, which enables children to move around freely, safely and independently. They have access to all rooms on the ground floor of the house, which has facilities for eating, sleeping, toileting and playing. The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and she ensures the children are under her direct supervision at all times. Children are learning to keep themselves safe, for example, the childminder has talked through with the older children the procedure to follow if there was a fire.

Children independently select activities from a range of toys and equipment, which are safe, clean and of good quality, which encourages children to make choices. Children are protected from the risk of harm whilst in childminder's care as she is aware of the correct procedures to follow should she have a concern. The childminder has an understanding of child protection issues and has the required documentation in place to ensure the welfare of the children is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children participate in a wide variety of activities both in the home and garden. The childminder gets to know the children well, they enter confidently and make themselves at home. Children are given opportunities to play together and relate well to each other. They have regular opportunities to express their creativity and demonstrate their individuality through using a range of materials. Children respond well to the praise and encouragement they receive and interact well with the childminder, who enjoys their company, which raises their confidence and self esteem.

Children enjoy their play and develop their independence by being able to access a variety of resources and initiate their own activities. Children are interested in a suitable range of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. They are at ease in the childminder's

care, often sitting on her lap or next to her and giving her hugs, which demonstrates that they are comfortable and relaxed in her care. 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 satisfactory.

The children are treated with respect and individuality by the childminder and benefit from the childminder's good relationship with parents, information is exchanged daily to ensure the children's individual needs are met. Parents are kept well informed about what is going on at the childminder's and they receive verbal daily feedback about their child's day. However, the childminder does not keep a complaints record to make available to the parents and was not aware of the change in regulations, which affects the good sharing of information with parents.

Children are able to access resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity which helps them develop an understanding of others. They are caring toward and enjoy helping the childminder with her own son who has additional needs. Children behave well, the childminder sets boundaries, supports children in learning to share and take turns and encourages the children to show concern for others. The childminder uses plenty of praise and encouragement, celebrating the children's achievements and developing their confidence. The childminder ensures all children are able to participate fully.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children are able to move around freely and, indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise the play opportunities for children. The children feel at home and at ease in the welcoming environment. The childminder has verbal discussions with the parents to ensure the children are supported and cared for appropriately and parents are kept informed of their child's activities. Most of the required documentation is in place, stored securely, shared with parents where appropriate and the childminder is aware of the need for confidentiality.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure a written contract with parents is provided for each child; to provide a range of resources reflecting positive images of disability; and to provide written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Since the last inspection the childminder has met all the recommendations which helps to promote the health and welfare of the children.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children
- keep a record of complaints and any action taken

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