

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111008
Inspection date	11 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 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 1989. She lives with her two adult children in the North Baddesley area of Southampton. All areas of the property except two bedroom 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 four 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 a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's good health is effectively promoted by the childminder who has a good understanding of health, hygiene and nutrition. Children are provided with a diet that is healthy and nutritious

and in line with their parents' wishes. Children enjoy healthy snacks such as fruit and breadsticks and drinks are always available. Children's health records are kept up to date, including accidents and the administration of medication. However, the childminder has not obtained consent to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for each child which means their health is not fully protected. The childminder avoids cross infection through her regular routines. Children are provided with individual hand towels and learn about good personal hygiene as they are reminded to wash their hands after toileting and before eating.

Children relish being in the garden where they use a varied range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health and physical development. The childminder recognises the benefits of daily exercise, she ensures they have opportunities to develop their small and large muscles. Children are confident and thoroughly enjoy using the range of outdoor apparatus in the garden including a climbing frame, slide, balls and sand play. They move around safely on wheeled toys and practise ball skills. Children benefit from regular outings to local country parks and attend carer and toddler groups regularly.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues. She gives high priority to ensuring risks and hazards are minimised and that children's safety is promoted at all times in and outside the home. She supervises young children closely ensuring they stay safe. The childminder has the required documents and procedures in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded. She has a knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

Children are cared for in a clean, safe and secure environment. The ample space indoors and outdoors is used effectively allowing children to play and move around safely and they are able to access the toilet independently. Children make choices from the wide range of play materials available to them. A full range of equipment ensures they are cared for appropriately. All of which is clean, safe and well maintained.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminders' home. They are familiar with the daily routine which helps them to feel secure. They relate well to the childminder who offers a nurturing environment. Children enjoy being in a busy household with a wide range of interesting activities and experiences being offered to them inside and outside the home. They play enthusiastically with the well organised range of play equipment provided. The childminder develops their language and introduces numbers and counting, for example, they play a pairs game and count how many pairs they have each collected. Children benefit from the many opportunities to socialise with others, for example, at toddler groups and planned outings. Children's self esteem, confidence and independence are developed through the praise, encouragement and the positive attitude the childminder adopts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. Children are welcomed and play a full part in their time at the childminder's as they make choices of activities and resources. They become independent as they learn to manage their personal needs. The childminder obtains information regarding their care and preferences to ensure their needs are met and children feel happy in her care.

The childminder has a positive approach to supporting children with additional needs, working closely with parents to support them appropriately. Children learn about diversity through books and the use of resources such as role play equipment. Children are learning to behave well and control their emotions due to the childminder's consistent approach to behaviour management that is appropriate to the child's level of development. She encourages and praises their efforts and achievements at every opportunity.

The childminder has a good relationship with parents. Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents and they work together to meet the children's individual needs. However, the childminder does not keep a complaints record to make available to the parents, which is a breach of regulation. She was not aware of the change in regulations, which affects the good sharing of information with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are well cared for and all aspects of the childminder's care are generally well organised. The environment is welcoming and well planned allowing children to move around freely and access play materials independently. Activities are loosely planned to ensure flexibility and play is mostly child-initiated. Most of the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Children's records are stored confidentially. However, the childminder did not have her registration certificate displayed which is a breach of conditions of registration.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure all documentation is up to date and maintained; to extend resources reflecting positive images of ethnicity, culture and disability; to provide parents with information about complaints and child protection procedures; and to update the contents of the first aid box to meet current requirements. Since the last inspection the childminder has met most of the recommendations made to improve her practice. She has contracts for each child and keeps all relevant paperwork for the children and has a range of resources including books, small world and role play, which reflect positive images of society. The first aid box is kept fully stocked. However, a recommendation concerning recording and reporting of complaints has been made at this inspection.

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):

- ensure that registration certificate is displayed
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- update knowledge of current regulation and 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