



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111410
Inspection date	09 August 2005
Inspector	Sheila Collins

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 1997. She lives with her partner and their two children aged 9 and 10 in a detached house in Hook. The whole of the ground floor of the property with the exception of the dining area is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years, full time on the days she works. The childminder takes children to and collects from local schools and preschools. She takes children to the local parks and attends the local childminder's drop in with the

children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association(NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder knows the children's individual routines which she follows where practical, which makes them feel secure and supported. They have good relationships with the childminder, who understands their individual needs well.

The children benefit from the good hygiene practices used by the childminder. They learn about their own personal hygiene when they independently wash their own hands or help each other, especially before snack time. Children have healthy snacks and choose their own fruit items. The childminder follows the parent's wishes regarding food and drink, which ensures that children have a consistent diet.

The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and a good understanding of the way to prevent accidents, which contributes to keeping the children healthy. The childminder knows the children's individual health needs, is meeting these and all relevant documentation to support this is in place. The children enjoy a range of activities in the garden, for example, crawling through the tunnel, using the seesaw and riding bicycles, which promotes their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move around the rooms safely and freely. The children know the boundaries and the ground rules which the childminder has put into place for their safety. They know which areas of the garden to use and to let the childminder know where they wish to play. Children benefit from the childminder's awareness of potential risks and her effective use of supervision.

Children use a wide range of toys, which promote all areas of their development. They independently access stage appropriate toys easily from the playroom. The childminder checks the resources regularly so ensuring that they are clean and in a good condition for the children to use.

The childminder has a working knowledge of child protection issues and procedures, which also contributes to the children's safety, although she has yet to obtain a copy of the recommended booklet.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are able to decide which activities they would like to do and to direct their own play, supported by the childminder. They select their resources independently from the lower shelves in the playroom or from the range outside and the childminder is on hand to help. They have excellent relationships with the childminder, involving her in their play. They enjoy an extensive variety of activities both indoors and outdoors which stimulate their all round development. They take turns, share, negotiate amicably over toys, and are becoming confident in this, knowing that the childminder is on hand to help. They enjoy taking part in outside play and outings to the park, which help them to develop their physical and social skills.

Activities are varied and include those which help their creativity, such as finger painting, and imagination, for example, pretending to camp. The childminder praises the children's efforts, which promotes their self-esteem and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. The children's individual dietary, medical, emotional and development needs are met by the childminder who uses all the required documentation to support this.

The children access a range of age and stage appropriate resources, which allows their individual development. They play co-operatively together and show concern for each other. The childminder uses appropriate strategies for managing behaviour so children know right from wrong.

By working in partnership with the parents, the childminder ensures that she is meeting each child's individual needs. She discusses the day's events with them at the end of each session with the parents, so ensuring continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children move freely between the ground floor rooms and the space available is well organised. Children are secure in a familiar environment as the childminder sets the rooms out similarly each day.

The childminder has all required documentation in place but the system for recording children's attendance on a daily basis is limited. The childminder meets the needs of all the children who are attending the setting. All children benefit from the childminder's good organisation of the day. Children access a variety of different opportunities and activities and play happily with other children.

The children benefit from a well-organised setting run by a knowledgeable and experienced childminder. She is very aware of the needs of young children and the requirements of her role as a childminder, which is evident in her current practice. She has not yet obtained a copy of Birth to Three Matters to assist her in her ongoing

work with the children in her care. The childminder is meeting the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection one recommendation was made. This related to the childminder developing her knowledge and understanding of child protection.

This recommendation has now been addressed satisfactorily, with the childminder having a working knowledge of child protection issues and routes of referral.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- devise and implement a system for recording children's daily attendance, which includes the full names of the children and their hours of attendance
- develop knowledge of the Birth to Three Matters framework, to further enhance the good practice offered to children under the age of three years

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