



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 112367
Inspection date 24 August 2005
Inspector Anne Gunston

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 1999, and is registered to care for a total of six children under eight years of age. Currently she is caring for two children on a part-time basis. She lives with her husband and two children of primary school age in a semi-detached house in the Boyatt Wood area of Eastleigh. Local schools, pre-school and play parks are nearby. The ground floor of the home is available to minded children for play. Additional play space is available for older children on the first floor in the playroom and in the childminder's own children's bedrooms, with their agreement. A secure garden is available for outside play. At the time of inspection, a dog and rabbits are the family pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She regularly attends parent and toddler groups and a music group with minded children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay very healthy when in the childminder's care as her hygiene practice is consistently good. For example, children are provided with individual flannels and towels, younger children have separate cots and bedding to prevent the spread of infection. In addition, the childminder implements a policy of not accepting children who are obviously unwell, so children's health is protected. Children learn about good hygiene practices, such as the need to wash hands grubby from play or after use of the toilet. They benefit from receiving very healthy snacks such as raisins or papaya; the childminder has a flexible approach towards provision of meals. She is prepared to serve items sent in by parents or cook healthy meals from fresh ingredients for children in her care, so individual dietary needs are always met. She ensures children are able to access cooling drinks whenever they wish, enabling them to be independent and ensuring they always receive sufficient for their needs. Children enjoy plenty of physical exercise, the childminder makes good use of her garden and local amenities where children can be active, learn co-ordination and gain control over their bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel very welcome in the childminder's home, she displays their work so they can be proud of their achievements, and ensures her house is well prepared for their care. They are able to use a varied range of toys and play materials. The childminder selects and displays an age-appropriate choice for them at low level each day. She has effective routines in place to make sure all her resources, both play materials and equipment such as high chairs, are always clean and safe for children to use. In addition, the childminder is vigilant in ensuring her family pets pose no risk to the health or safety of minded children. Her routines ensure that the family dog cannot access minded children as they play, and that toys are stored out of his reach. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe, yet the childminder makes sure their enjoyment of games is not impaired. For example, games of throwing and catching balls are allowed indoors as children are taught to roll the ball safely, not throw it at head height. Children benefit from being closely supervised at all times; the childminder makes sure younger children are always within her sight and is vigilant in checking on sleeping children. Older children are allowed more freedom of movement around the home and garden, once the childminder judges them sensible and trustworthy, so they gain more independence in a protected situation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

All children make rapid progress in the childminder's care as she has an excellent understanding of how children learn. She plans a stimulating range of activities for children both in and out of the home, which enables them to gain wide ranging skills. For example, children learn to form extremely positive relationships and enjoy the company of others at toddler groups. At music and movement groups children are stimulated and learn to experiment with sounds; they are encouraged to move their bodies in time to music, developing balance and co-ordination. Children are fully involved in play in the home; they rapidly gain in confidence and feel highly valued, for example, when the childminder develops activities that they have chosen or initiated for themselves. She is very skilled in enabling younger children to make sense of the world around them. By quickly responding and offering a "running commentary" to describe the child's own interests, the childminder effectively ensures that children continue to use their initiative and remain enthusiastically involved in play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the childminder's close working relationship with parents; daily discussion takes place to exchange relevant information, ensuring that children are very relaxed and settled in her care. The childminder has experience of caring for children who have special needs; she is prepared to do so in future and shows commitment to increasing her knowledge. This professional approach enables her to meet the individual needs of any child in her home, ensure that each child learns that his contribution is important, and that no child is just an "onlooker". Children learn about the wider world by using a good range of resources reflecting diversity, and take part in regular outings within the local community. The childminder values and enjoys the company of all children; they feel a sense of belonging and behaviour is generally good. Should any unwanted behaviour occur, the childminder takes account of the child's age and level of understanding in managing this. For example, younger children are quietly but firmly told "no", then distracted to more acceptable activities. Older children are given explanations for why their behaviour is unacceptable and given time to think about its consequences.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children receive high levels of time and attention as the childminder organises space in the home and her daily routine well. She has a clear understanding of child development and is keen to undertake further training in order to improve her skills. This ensures that children continue to receive stimulating, varied experiences while in her care. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. All relevant documentation is in place and stored securely. However

records of accidents do not maintain the confidentiality of others who may be involved. Some records relating to administration of long term, non-prescribed treatments have not been signed by parents in order to ensure a fully consistent programme of care. The childminder has a sound grasp of the requirements of her registration, enabling her to consistently promote children's health, safety and wellbeing.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder ensure that children have an appropriate range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She was also asked to make sure that information relating to children is readily available, including when off the premises; that decomposing materials in the garden are out of children's reach and a fire blanket be purchased and fitted.

The childminder has all records relating to individual children in place, these are stored in a confidential manner and made available to parents whenever they wish. She has also created an innovative method to make sure she has essential children's details with her when out of the home. A laminated card, containing a picture of each minded child and contact details for parents, is carried whenever the childminder takes children out. This ensures that the appropriate action can be taken to keep children safe should accidents occur. The children have no access to decomposing material in the garden and a fire blanket is appropriately sited in the kitchen, keeping children safe. A good selection of play materials is available to children, which raises their awareness of people of all races, cultures and abilities.

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):

- ensure that all records of medicinal products administered to minded children

are signed by parents, and that records of accidents which occur maintain the confidentiality of others present

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk