



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112583
Inspection date	26 July 2005
Inspector	Jennifer Pearce

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 a registered since 1994. She lives with her husband and two school aged children and a teenager. They live in a house in Park Gate, near Southampton within walking distance of schools, shops and parks. The rooms used for childminding are the main living room, a second reception room, the kitchen and the cloakroom. There is 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 caring for three children under five years on a part-time basis and two school age children after school and during school holidays.

The child minder runs a toddler group and is a member of the National Childminding Association. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care, for example children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly. This promotes an awareness and understanding of good personal hygiene.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as the childminder ensures that healthy and safe options are provided for example during cooking activities and when on outings and visits to toddler groups.

Children enjoy a variety of activities that contribute to their good health and physical development. Each day there are a variety of activities in the garden where children can access a good range of equipment. These along with regular visits to local parks and places of interest ensure that children's physical skills are developed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a spacious home where risks are minimised. Children are encouraged to be aware of safety issues for example ensuring that there are no small objects in games and resources that may injure a younger child.

Children independently select activities from the significant choice of good quality toys and resources. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures. The careful organisation of equipment, safety gates, barriers and door alarm ensure that all children are able to move around safely, freely and independently.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder knows the children well and makes provision for their needs on arrival. Children settle well at the childminder's home.

Children are excited and interested in a stimulating and comprehensive range of developmentally appropriate resources and activities. All children are able to select from the extensive range of toys and resources available. They enjoy their play and

they are able to initiate and lead their own activities for example buying play food using imaginary money and a game involving props and clues.

The childminder interacts well with the children and joins in with their play and craft activities encouraging the children to develop their language skills, identify letters and support the children's new ideas.

The children socialise with other children through regular attendance at local toddler groups. The childminder continues to use praise and encouragement to help children to develop good self-esteem and confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children have a good relationship with the childminder as she takes time to listen to them and is interested in what they say and do for example when they share games, read stories and talk together about what they are making.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder uses plenty of praise and encouragement developing their confidence for example praising the children for their achievements when naming animals in a book and finding clues for game.

Children learn good manners and gain an understanding of appropriate behaviour through expectations set by the childminder for example children are taught not to push or snatch and to share their toys with each other.

The childminder develops a good relationship with parents and information is exchanged daily about the children's health and dietary needs, daily routines, sleep patterns and activities to ensure that each child's individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are at ease and able to move around freely in the well organised environment. The indoor and outdoor play space is planned to maximise the play opportunities of all children and enables them to have freedom of choice for activities.

Policies and procedures are shared with parents. This keeps them informed of the childminder's practice.

Whilst most documentation is in place some of the consents from parents are not all in place to ensure the children's welfare and care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder needed to ensure that records of the times that the children arrive and depart were accurate. This is now in place and an accurate record is kept ensuring the children's welfare and care.

At the last inspection the childminder needed to improve her knowledge of child protection procedures including who to report concerns to when it is suspected that a child is being abused or if there is an allegation of abuse about the childminder or others. The childminder is familiar with the procedures and has the Area Child Protection Committee document and contact. The childminder shares this with parents. This ensures that the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

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):

- obtain all parents prior written permission to seek emergency medical first aid or advice and for giving any medication.

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