

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111938
Inspection date	02 May 2007
Inspector	Marie Thompson

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 1991. She lives with her husband and three children aged 21, 18 and 16 in Hook, Hampshire. The ground floor of the childminder's house, including a play room, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

There are currently seventeen children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have two guinea pigs and a goldfish.

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 play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good hygiene practices. The children are encouraged to wash their hands before and after meals, playing outside or touching the guinea pigs. They are becoming quite proficient in their personal care under the close

supervision of the childminder. The children use the downstairs toilet where there is a small sink at child height and they enjoy squirting soap from the dispenser to wash their hands. However, all the children use the same towel to dry their hands. This does not fully help prevent the spread of germs or the risk of cross infection. The childminder is vigilant and ensures that the children's noses are wiped and nappies changed immediately to make sure they are comfortable.

The children enjoy healthy meals and snacks provided by the childminder which are nutritionally balanced in content. The childminder has devised a detailed and varied menu for the children's meals. This demonstrates her knowledge and understanding of healthy food. She caters for individual tastes and accommodates the children's 'favourites' whenever possible. Children receive plenty of drinks, especially in warm weather, which prevents dehydration. The childminder makes sure all the children's beakers are full throughout the day and on the table in the kitchen where they can easily access them when they are thirsty.

Children receive appropriate first aid, which is recorded and countersigned by parents. Children are administered only medicine that has been authorised by parents. Sick children are sensitively cared for by the childminder and appropriate procedures followed, which reassures and comforts the children.

Children enjoy regular physical activities, which help keep them in good health. They enjoy playing on the climbing frame and slide or kicking footballs into the goal in the garden. Outings to the park provide access to large play equipment, giving children plenty of opportunity to develop physical skills. The children get regular fresh air from walking to and from school everyday and nature walks around the local area or down to the fields to see the horses.

The childminder builds very strong relationships with the children making them feel secure. The childminder knows the children well and is responsive to their individual needs, which allows them to learn and develop a variety of skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a well-organised environment, where the childminder identifies risks and minimises hazards. This allows them to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety inside and outside the home. The childminder has a detailed fire evacuation procedure in place and practises the fire drill regularly so that all the children are aware of the procedure to follow. However, the fire blanket is not securely fitted to the wall so that it can be easily accessed in an emergency.

Children have easy and safe access to toys and resources that are stimulating and suitable for children's stage of development, which meet safety standards. Regular checks ensure there are no broken parts that could harm a child. Children benefit from well-supervised outdoor play. Clear procedures for outings ensure children's safety at all times. The children learn about road safety and use pedestrian crossings whenever possible, which allows them to learn some sense of danger and to gain knowledge about how to protect them from harm.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues which safeguards and promotes children's welfare. She has attended a relevant training course. The childminder is

able to effectively and efficiently deal with child protection concerns and there is documented evidence to support this.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive and settle well in an environment where the childminder sensitively interacts with the children. They are happy, relaxed and confident. They relate very well to the childminder and to each other and clearly enjoy each other's company and social interaction with other children through regular attendance at local mother and toddler groups or childminder drop in groups. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of stimulating toys and resources, which appeal to all. The children are proactive in tidying up the toys before snack or before getting other toys out to play with and respond to the childminders' praise for tidying up.

A good range of activities supports children's learning and development. Regular outings to local venues, such as the library, where they join in with song time or the shops, which helps them understand the world around them. During the summer holidays the children enjoy days out to Alice Holt to go on nature walks or Lyme Pits and East Drop Park where they can paddle in the out door paddling pool.

The children enjoy books and stories, which are part of the daily routine after lunch. They learn to co-operate and share when playing games together, for example when they construct the train track together, taking turns to lay a piece of track each. The children enjoy having picnic lunches in the garden or sitting at the table for snacks under the parasol during the summer months. Painting and music nurture children's creative development. Good support reinforces new language and acknowledgement of their ideas promotes their conversational skills. The children have their 'own space' in the playroom which has lots of toys to choose from and a computer for them to use. The childminder gives the children space to engage and develop their own ideas in play and therefore allows their imagination to evolve naturally.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel respected as individuals and made to feel good about themselves because the childminder gives them lots of praise, positive comments and cuddles. They talk about their home life and things that are important to them. They learn about the world around them through outings to Play Days or Run About. The children enjoy activities that introduce them to different festivals such as Chinese New Year, Diwali, Christmas and Easter. Conversations about people and animals from other countries are addressed as they arise naturally through play. Children have access to a good range of resources that reflect positive images of diversity and their understanding of others.

The childminder meets the children's needs by following normal daily routines as discussed with parents, which helps the children feel secure. They have time to relax as well as be active, which develops the children's independent freedom of choice. The childminder is a very good role model, she is polite and kind and the children emulate this. Children learn important social skills such as sharing and listening to each other. They enjoy each other's company and treat each other kindly. Children benefit from lots of praise and they behave very well. Good explanation helps children learn right from wrong and teaches self-discipline. The children have helped to devise the 'House rules' and are proactive in ensuring that everyone abides by them.

The childminder has attended relevant training in behaviour management which helps to consolidate her strategies.

The childminder has excellent relationships with all of the parents, which are friendly and supportive. Parents are fully informed of her practice, ensuring the children's continued support and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well-organised and comfortable environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The childminder effectively uses her policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. The childminder has all documentation available, which includes a daily record of the children's attendance. Most relevant and mandatory documentation is in place and well maintained, although, the record for recording any complaints is not in place.

The childminder has continued her professional development by attending courses in child protection, managing challenging behaviour and first aid. She keeps herself up to date on current childcare issues through publications from the National Childminding Association and Ofsted.

By working in partnership with the parents, the childminder ensures that she meets the children's individual needs. Discussions take place daily with the parents and the children tell their parents what they have done during their time with the childminder. The regular informal discussion with parents ensures continuity of care for the children. Children receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident to develop and expand their learning through play. 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 was asked to improve her procedures for taking children out are in line with the National Standards and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Procedures for taking children out have been updated in line with the National Standards and written permission has been sought from the parents requesting permission to obtain emergency medical advice or treatment for their children.

These measures contribute to ensuring children's continual health, safety and well-being.

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):

- devise and implement a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request.
- provide separate towels to prevent cross infection
- make sure the fire blanket is securely fixed to the wall and can be easily accessed in an emergency

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