



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY243475
Inspection date	21 September 2005
Inspector	Alison Jane Williams

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 has been a registered since 2003. She lives in a three bedroom terraced property in the Copnor area of Portsmouth, close to local shops, schools and the park.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis before and after school. The childminder does not employ an assistant. Registration includes overnight care for two children.

Children have access to all of the ground floor of the property, with sleeping facilities provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder has no pets. The childminder takes and collects children from Westover School. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and the park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children eat well as the childminder provides fresh cooked meals such as roast dinners and frozen and convenience foods such as fish fingers and oven chips. They enjoy a variety of snacks such as apples, bananas and biscuits. Children's individual dietary needs and their personal preferences are taken into consideration. The childminder adapts meals for children who are Autistic and have a wheat allergy to promote their health grow and development. Children are offered drinks throughout the day. Their drinking cups are kept within easy reach so they can help themselves freely to orange or blackcurrant squash and water from the kitchen.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home. The procedures and policies for administering medication and sick children keep them healthy and protected from infection. The childminder wears disposable gloves for nappy changing, to protect herself and the children. She cleans the changing mat after use with anti-bacterial spray. Children are beginning to understand the importance of good personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and learn self care skills. The childminder has a suitable knowledge of first aid and her current first aid certificate is valid until April 2006.

Children enjoy a range of activities, which contribute to their good health. They have frequent opportunities for outside and physical play to help them develop their bodily strength and co-ordination. They play in the garden, visit the park and toddler group and have regular outings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and move about the home safely, as the childminder supervises them at all times and safety devices such as socket covers and stair gates are in place. Children learn how to stay safe. They understand not to touch the cooker as they could get burnt. Children are safe when taken on outings. They learn how to cross the road safely. They know to find a safe place to cross the road such as with the lollipop man or at a zebra crossing and to stop, look and listen before they cross. The childminder ensures car seats are suitable for the ages of all children and she checks seatbelts and safety restrains are securely fastened before every journey.

The childminder has a suitable understanding of child protection procedures and recognises the possible signs of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and well cared for in the childminder's home. They move around confidently and freely and make themselves at home. They are able to make their own choices of activities, which encourages and develops their independence. Children are interested in a varied range of developmentally appropriate activities including drawing, colouring and painting, model making and collage, play dough, construction and imaginative play with dolls. They experiment with a variety of different media, including natural and recycled materials, during art and craft activities. Children enjoy the time at the end of the school day when they can relax or be active in accordance with their needs and interests. They can watch television, play games or receive help and support with their homework, reading and spelling practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy frequent walks and outings to local places of interest such as Manor Country Park, the City Museum, Fort Nelson and Baffins Pond. They develop their knowledge and understanding of their local community through visits to the shops, the library and community parks.

Children have regular opportunities to develop their understanding of others and to learn to socialise with their peers during weekly visits to toddler group. However, children's awareness of the wider world is limited. They have access to a meagre range of resources, which reflect diversity and only learn about Christian festivals during planned activities and celebrations at toddler group.

The childminder has a positive attitude to working with children with special needs. She works closely with parents to monitor behaviour and food intake for children who have been recently diagnosed as Autistic. She establishes beneficial relationships with parents. She is flexible with children's patterns of attendance so as to meet the needs of working parents and is happy to accompany children on regular dental check ups or to their gymnastics club. They liaise closely and have on going discussion. However, she is unable to ensure she respects parents' wishes at all times as not all relevant written parental consents are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are familiar with daily routines and are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's home. They visit the toilet independently, help themselves to drinks and they know where to find toys and play materials. Children feel happy and relaxed within the childminder's home. They are confident to explore and initiate their own choices and are able to move freely around the range of activities available.

Parents are welcomed into the childminder's home and kept informed of their children's care through regular discussion. However, documents do not keep parents well informed, as pre-existing injury records are not always maintained. Parents are not asked to give written consent for outings, transporting children in the car or for the arrangements in the event of an emergency.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The last Children Act inspection made recommendations to ensure business insurance is in place for transporting children in a vehicle and to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote positive images of culture, ethnicity and disability.

Appropriate insurance cover for transporting children in a vehicle is now in place.

The childminder has made limited improvement by extended the range of resources which reflect diversity, to include a puzzle of children from around the world and a set of multi-cultural figures.

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 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 a record is maintained of all pre-existing injuries
- further develop the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- ensure that relevant written parental consents are in place

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