



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113208
Inspection date	12 July 2005
Inspector	Hilary Knight

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 1996. She lives with her 2 daughters in a house in Aldershot, Hampshire. The property is within walking distance of local shops, schools and parks. All areas of the property are being used for childminding. Toilet and sleep facilities are located on the first floor. The family have 2 cats as family pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for 5 children at any one time and is currently minding 7 children all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from well organised meal times. The childminder provides a healthy sample menu plan for breakfast, snacks, lunches and teas which are available for parents to view and takes into account the wishes of parents and children's preferences to provide meals that are appealing. Children experience relaxed meal and snack times which promote social interaction. Younger children are developing increasing independence in feeding themselves by being given finger foods and encouraged to hold their own milk bottle.

Children enjoy a varied range of physical activities which contribute to their good health. Regular outings to the park and an extensive collection of outdoor resources enable them to develop their physical skills as they climb on the slide or use wheeled cars in the garden. Younger children also benefit from clear crawling space and a good arrangement of furniture to use to pull themselves up on.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment which promotes children's healthcare. Consistent procedures followed by the childminder help to protect children from illness and infection. These include using disposable wipes for the younger children's hands so as to prevent the spread of infection. Younger children are also learning about the importance of hand washing through brief explanations and older children are encouraged to wash their hands after stroking the cat, messy activities, after playing in the garden, using the toilet and before and after eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have a dedicated playroom to access a good range of toys and resources to promote their development. They are easily accessible to children. Children play safely and independently as toys are regularly checked for damage and are discarded or repaired if broken.

Safety precautions taken by the childminder contribute to child safety. Stairs gates prevent unsupervised access in the kitchen and lounge and ensure that children are within sight or hearing distance at all times. The home and garden is regularly risk assessed so that outstanding areas of safety concerns are dealt with promptly.

The childminder has good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures to protect children from harm and is aware of maintaining confidentiality at all times. Children practise a fire evacuation plan on a monthly basis and learn about keeping safe in the event of an emergency. Children are also learning about the importance of road safety on outings as the childminder does not drive.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children encounter a wide range of experiences which contribute to their development both inside and outside the home. Children benefit from regular outings to the park, two mornings a week at a local toddler group, other childminders' houses and visits to the library which promote their learning, stimulates their interest in the wider world and develops their ability to relate to a wider group of adults and peers.

Inside the home children enjoy stimulating planned activities which are centred on themes which last approximately a week. For example one activity centres on transport. Activities include drawing pictures of different vehicles, singing songs of different songs related to vehicles and when outdoors counting buses and cars. This was extended to playing with cars and garage, making a road way of blocks, play dough shapes of different vehicles, discussing road safety and cutting and pasting pictures of different vehicles on to paper.

Children are happy and content in their relationship with the childminder and at the setting. They receive lots of cuddles and attention which contributes to their sense of belonging and encourages them to be increasingly independent. Children are developing communication skills as the childminder consistently talks to them as they play and she responds to younger children's gestures and sounds.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and well behaved. They are treated equally and activities are adapted to enable children to participate according to their age and development. Children are learning about the diverse world in which we live through appropriate toys and activities. The childminder demonstrates a good awareness and has experience of caring for children with special needs.

Children gain good levels of self-esteem and confidence through praise and encouragement and good settling in procedures. There is no set time for a child to be settled in and the length of time depends on the individual child. Children are encouraged to settle in quickly as the childminder learns about their individual home routine and incorporates it into the setting. Daily discussions with parents about their child's development and activities undertaken that day ensure continuity of care and that parents have some information, however as yet, parents have no written policies and procedures to view.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The home is organised so that children have sufficient space to crawl or move around in. Children receive good adult support within a safe environment indoors and outdoors. The areas used for play are welcoming and resources are stored to enable children to develop confidence and independence. The childminder organises her time sufficiently well with menu plans and planned activities so that children are able

to play purposefully.

The childminder stores documentation appropriately to maintain confidentiality. Most paperwork is maintained accurately and consistently to protect children's welfare, however, an attendance register needs to be maintained in pen and signed on a weekly basis by the childminder and parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has obtained written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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 parents are aware of written policies and procedures
- ensure that attendance register is maintained in pen and signed by parents on a weekly basis.

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