

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY341053
Inspection date	15 June 2007
Inspector	Lisa Jane Cupples

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 2006. She lives with her husband and four children, of these, three are adults and one is a teenager. In addition to this the partner of one of the childminder's children lives at the address and also her two grandchildren. They all live in a house in Portchester, a residential area in Hampshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a full and part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler groups and supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The family have a dog, a cat, pet fish, two rats and three Guinea pigs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and are developing good self care skills through daily discussion and routines. For example, the children are actively encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times. Children are protected and enjoy a healthy environment because the childminder implements sound hygiene procedures to help prevent the possible spread of infection. She ensures the table and the highchair is cleaned thoroughly with anti-bacterial spray before and after each use.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the procedures to record all accidents that occur on the premises and parents sign to acknowledge that they have been informed, helping to keep children healthy. Clear systems are in place for the safe administration of medication, although not all entries have been signed by the parents. Some parents have not been asked to give written consent to enable the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, which could cause a delay in an emergency. Children will receive appropriate treatment if an accident occurs because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid kit is stored in the kitchen. The childminder checks the contents regularly to ensure they are up-to-date and well-maintained, helping to keep the children healthy.

Children benefit from a nutritious diet because the childminder has a clear understanding of healthy eating. She provides a range of fruit for snacks and discusses the needs of each child with the parents in detail and records the information on their registration forms. Children are beginning to understand about healthy eating through daily discussions and talk openly about which food is good for them at meal times. Children enjoy a range of physical activities such as walks to the local parks and outdoor activities. They go outside daily to reap the benefits of fresh air and to collect other minded children from school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming home and the premises are clean and well-maintained, providing a safe and healthy environment. Children are able to move freely from the lounge to the dining room, developing their self-confidence effectively. They have ample space to participate in an extensive range of activities, independently or in small groups with the childminder. Children have access to an extensive range of suitable equipment and resources, helping to promote their development and learning in all areas. The resources and toys are in good condition and are brightly coloured to attract the children's interest. The resources are stored in low-level boxes around the room, enabling the children to choose their own activities and see the full range of options, developing their freedom of choice and decision making skills effectively. The equipment and resources are clean and well-maintained; the childminder checks the toys daily to make sure nothing is broken or damaged, helping to keep the children safe.

Children are safe because the childminder ensures no unannounced visitors can gain access. The front door is kept locked at all times and the garden gates are bolted to prevent anyone gaining entry without the childminders knowledge, helping to protect the children and keep them safe. Children are protected because the childminder is vigilant and removes all potential risks to the children. For example, a stair gate is in place to prevent the children from accessing

the kitchen unsupervised, all cleaning products are stored in locked cupboards and all plug sockets are covered. The children learn to keep themselves safe through daily discussions and routines. For example, they know what to do in an emergency and are able to explain the evacuation procedures clearly. The childminder explained that she practises the fire drill every month and whenever a new child attends, so they are all fully aware of what to do if an emergency occurs.

The childminder has a very clear understanding of child protection procedures and discusses her responsibilities with the parents before the children attend. The childminder records all existing injuries and asks the parents to sign the entries. Through discussion the childminder was able to demonstrate that she would recognise the possible signs or symptoms of abuse and would contact the relevant parties to protect the children in her care if concerns were identified.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children enjoy their time at the setting because they are treated as one of the family. They know where everything is and make themselves at home, helping themselves to resources and confidently suggesting ideas as they play. The childminder provides an extensive range of tactile toys for the youngest children and allows them to spend time investigating their surroundings. They enjoy listening to musical toys, and the childminder is skilled at responding to the children's babbling and praising them as they try new things for the first time. The childminder has a clear understanding of the developmental needs of children and this enables her to differentiate the activities effectively, ensuring all the children can participate fully. For example, the younger children crawl around in the lounge freely accessing suitable resources, while the older children enjoy board games and colouring activities at the table. Children enjoy their time at the childminder's house because they continually complete worthwhile activities during their time at the setting.

Children have ample opportunities to develop their imaginations through role-play and dressing-up. They negotiate roles and co-operate well as they plan their games. The childminder knows the children extremely well which enables her to stand back and let play develop naturally or to intervene and gently direct the children towards more purposeful play without disrupting the flow of the games. Children enjoy writing their own books and talk to each other about the letters as they write the words. The childminder uses phonics to develop the children's skills and build on what they learn at school. Children take part in many different activities and are fully occupied and engaged throughout their day. They thrive in this environment because the childminder gets to know them extremely well and introduces new activities and games to reflect their individual interests. For example, the children are interested in fairy tales at the moment, so the childminder provides resources, books and stories to stimulate the children throughout the day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and ensures all children have equal access to the resources and activities available. Children benefit from the childminder's experience as they learn to share and take turns easily. The childminder gently reminds them why it is important to take turns and the children can see the fairness, explaining it's so they

can all play. Children learn to respect each other and are beginning to show consideration for each other. For example, the older children pass toys to the youngest children and carefully walk around them as they attempt to crawl. The childminder discusses equal opportunities with the parents, helping them to understand that she is an equal opportunities provider. She explains to parents that it means she accepts all children into her care and ensures they are all treated as individuals. Children's individual needs are met extremely well because the childminder takes the time to get to know each child and their families well, this develops a real sense of belonging and the children feel valued when the childminder talks about their siblings and other family members. The childminder finds out about the children's needs and preferences through detailed discussion with the parents and she records the details on their registration forms.

The childminder has experience of working with children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She works extremely closely with the parents and is happy to liaise with other agencies to fully support the children and their families. Children are developing a strong sense of right and wrong because the childminder has clear rules and boundaries in place. Children's behaviour is extremely good because they know exactly what is expected of them. The childminder always gives clear explanations aimed at their individual level of understanding, for example, through gently reminding the children to share the books. Children are extremely polite and the childminder gently reminds the children to say please and thank you if they forget.

The childminder is fully aware of the complaints procedure and has discussed the implementation of a complaints log with the parents. Children benefit greatly from the strong relationships with parents. Communication is open and clear building trusting relationships, helping the children to settle and feel safe in the childminder's care. The childminder shares information with the parents verbally at collection time, they talk about how the children have been, what they have been doing and any other things that have happened, helping to keep them informed. She also provides a written daily diary for the parents of the youngest children, providing a detailed picture of what they have been doing through the day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are fully occupied and engaged throughout their time at the setting. The childminder ensures activities are planned in advance and has all the necessary equipment and materials set up nearby to enable the sessions run smoothly. The children are never left waiting around for something to do. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder is fully aware of the registration requirements and ensures she maintains the correct ratios, helping to protect the children and ensure they are fully supervised and receive good support at all times. The daily attendance register is maintained and up-to-date. However, the children's full names and actual times of attendance are not recorded, so an accurate record of the children's attendance is not in place at this time. Children's health, safety and general well-being is supported because the childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of registration and the inspection process. All of the relevant paperwork is in place and most is accurate and maintained to a high standard, protecting the children in her care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- ensure parents sign to acknowledge the administration of medication
- obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure the daily attendance register includes the children's actual times of attendance and their full names.

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