

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 111798
Inspection date 04 June 2007
Inspector Hazel Stuart-Buddery

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 registered since 1997. She lives with her partner and one child in Fleet which is within walking distance of Fleet town centre and close to local schools, preschools and parks. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding with sleeping facilities upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time and currently has 14 children on the register on a part time basis.

The family have a dog that the children have supervised access to. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean and well maintained environment. There are some effective hygiene procedures in place. For example, all children use individual flannels to wash hands before

meals and younger children use wipes. However, the spread of infection is not fully prevented as all children use the same towel to dry their hands after using the toilet. Children benefit from healthy meals and snacks provided by the parents, all dietary needs are recorded on record forms. Children enjoy independent access to drinks throughout the day and today enjoy fruit bar snacks.

Children receive appropriate care if there is an accident as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Children's health care needs are not fully supported as not all required written consents from parents are in place. Prescribed medication has been administered to children without prior written consent. The childminder advises that children have daily opportunities to play outside where they have access to a wide range of age appropriate equipment, such as slides, rockers and bikes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play and rest in a safe and secure environment. They are protected from hazards because the childminder identifies and minimizes risk around the home. Toys are stored neatly around the room in clear boxes and on low level shelves. Children move around freely and safely and are encouraged to put some toys away before getting more out in order to keep the floor space as safe as possible. Children have easy and safe access to a wide range of age appropriate toys stored in a dedicated play room. Low level pegs allow children to hang their own coats and bags helping them to feel valued. Children are sufficiently protected from the risk of fire. A fire drill is practised regularly with the children. Smoke alarms are on all levels of the home, although the fire blanket has not been appropriately fixed in the kitchen.

Children are well protected from harm. The childminder has a good awareness of child protection issues and of the procedures to follow should there be concerns. She has a written policy outlining her responsibilities that is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. Some arrive a little unsettled, but soon settle with some reassurance and lots of cuddles. Children enjoy the freedom to explore the toys themselves and happily play with large bricks. The childminder sits with the children and offers good levels of help and support. She names the different animals, such as hippo, that the children choose and suggests that they find the hippo house. The children listen well and successfully find the Hippo house. The children have good relationships with the childminder, who is kind and caring towards them. The childminder shows the children two puppets of a cat and duck. The children look with interest and listen carefully as the puppet makes the appropriate animal's sound. They are encouraged to repeat the sound the animals make, such as quack quack, but do not respond. The childminder uses the puppet to give the children a kiss on the cheek. The children respond positively to this and smile happily.

The childminder offers appropriate levels of support and encouragement and good relationships are fostered.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has an awareness of equality of opportunity. She provides resources that help children learn about diversity. Individual needs and routines of younger children are discussed with parents to ensure continuity of care is offered. Children have clear house rules and boundaries. The childminder advises they are all well behaved and get on well together. Children respond positively to praise and encouragement given to them by the childminder.

The childminder has a set of written policies and procedures that she shares with parents and written contracts are in place. The childminder talks to the parents regularly about the progress of their children. Most parental consents are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They receive appropriate levels of support that helps them to feel safe and secure. They benefit from an organised and dedicated play room that allows them to move around freely and safely. They have access to a wide range of age appropriate resources that encourages their development in all areas.

The childminder discusses all elements of care at the initial interview. She has a full set of written policies and procedures. The complaints policy reflects the October 2005 changes to the regulations. She maintains her paperwork well, although some entries in the medication book lack prior parental consent. Overall, 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 make sure that low-level glass panels are safe or inaccessible; make available to parents a written statement that provides details of the procedure to be followed if they have a complaint. The childminder has confirmed from a glazier that the glass in the internal doors is safety glass and she has written a complaints policy that reflects the current legislation. These improvements ensure that the safety and welfare of the children are promoted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 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):

- improve the daily hygiene routines to ensure the spread of infection is prevented
- ensure prior written consent is obtained from parents each time medication is administered
- improve the fire safety and site the fire blanket appropriately in the kitchen.

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