

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	149768
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Lilyanne Taylor
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 1991. She lives in a semi-detached house with her partner, his two school aged children and her own adult son, who resides at the premises during school holiday periods. Their house is situated in a residential area of Nettlestone, on the Isle of Wight. There is a primary and pre-school within walking distance, and local shops, beaches and parks are nearby. All areas of the property are suitable for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. The family keep dogs as pets.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children under eight years when working alone and eight children under eight years when working with an assistant. Currently there are 19 children on roll, all attend part-time; of these, 10 are under eight years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the spread of germs and infection through the effective procedures and practices the childminder has in place. All areas of the home accessed by children are clean

and work and eating surfaces are cleaned prior to and after use. Children become aware of their own personal hygiene through daily routines; they are carefully reminded to wash their hands after toileting and prior to eating, using individual towels to dry them.

Appropriate procedures are in place for dealing with injuries; the childminder has a current first aid certificate and she seeks permission from parents so that emergency first aid or medical advice can be sought for children if necessary.

Children are protected from illness; the childminder shares with parents her policy that states if children are ill they do not attend. Although the childminder seeks the necessary permission to administer medication, documentation in place does not evidence parents' acknowledgement of its administration.

Most of the time children enjoy a varied selection of nutritious meals and snacks. Snacks consist of fresh fruit, vegetables or toast. During term time most children's main meals are supplied by the childminder. They consist of roasts, shepherd's pie and jacket potatoes; all are served with a selection of vegetables. However, during holiday periods the childminder is not able to fully guarantee the food children bring in from home remains in a healthy condition for them to eat; she does not check the contents of their lunch boxes to see if any food requires refrigerating. Children have free access to drinks throughout the day, which ensures they do not go thirsty.

The childminder ensures children have regular opportunities to be out in the fresh air each day so they experience and enjoy a range of outdoor activities which aids their physical development. For example, they have access to large equipment, such as a trampoline in the rear garden, are taken on walks around the local area and visit the local parks, beaches and swimming pool.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a secure environment which enables them to move around freely. Children are constantly supervised and the childminder carries out a risk assessment of all areas children have access to which ensures they are kept safe.

Parental permission is sought to take children out of the home either for walks or in a vehicle. The childminder has regard to the new regulations regarding car seats and booster cushions; she ensures any such equipment used is agreed with parents.

The childminder carefully organises resources and play equipment; she takes into account the ages of children being cared for and stores equipment accordingly. Younger children's toys are kept at a low level and all equipment and toys are checked as used.

Procedures for evacuating the premises in the event of a fire are clearly written, displayed, shared with parents and practised with children. The childminder keeps a record of children attending each day so it is clear to see the actual time they are in her care.

Children are extremely well protected through the childminder's clear understanding of child protection issues and her responsibilities for ensuring the well-being of children is safeguarded. Parents sign to confirm they have been informed of the procedures the childminder would follow should she have any concerns regarding their children's well-being, and the childminder is fully aware of the procedures she should follow should an allegation be made against herself or other members of the household.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder. They thoroughly enjoy their time at this setting and have a good relationship with the childminder.

Children's interests are responded to because the childminder finds out what they like doing best; she observes children while they play and provides further activities for them based on her observations and their interests. Children respond well to the praise they are given in recognition of their achievements which raises their confidence and self esteem.

The childminder interacts with the children well, which extends their learning and sustains their interests. For example, while playing a card game the childminder encourages children to match the colours and to state the numerals on the cards. Children are appropriately challenged as the childminder provides toys that are suitable for their individual ages and stages of development; consequently, children enjoy what they are doing and have fun.

Children thoroughly enjoy making their own play-dough and, when it is a child's birthday, they assist in the making of a birthday cake. While playing a stacking block game, older children assist younger children by showing them the best way to remove a block from the pile without toppling the rest of them over. Children play well together; they share, take turns and make friendships with one another.

Younger children become aware of how to socialise with other children and adults when they go to toddler groups or children's singing sessions in a local church hall.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are included and valued as individuals. The childminder treats all children equally and they are made to feel part of the family; samples of their work, photographs and press cuttings of them taking part in various activities while in the childminder's care and also at the schools they attend are displayed around the home. Children are able to make their own choices of activities from the range of resources available.

Children become aware of the boundaries and behavioural expectations of the setting through the clear and consistent guidance they receive, which is appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Children benefit from the good rapport and working relationship the childminder establishes with parents. She obtains information from them about their child's needs which contributes significantly to their well-being. The effective two way sharing of information on a daily basis ensures children are provided with continuity of care, appropriately supported and their individual needs met.

New children feel welcomed and secure. They are able to attend pre-visits with their parents so they get to know the childminder and the environment in which they will be cared for. The childminder explains to parents the operational procedures of the provision and shares and agrees with them some of the policies and procedures she works to which ensures the child's transition from home to the childminder's is smooth.

Parents are informed of the procedures they should follow if they have any views or concerns about the provision; procedures the childminder has in place to deal with any such complaints ensure they are dealt with and responded to within the set timescale.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable happy and relaxed in a well organised and stimulating environment. Indoor and outdoor play space is used flexibly to maximise children's play opportunities.

Children are well cared for by a childminder who is suitably qualified and experienced; she has knowledge of first aid and attends training to ensure her knowledge of childcare, child development and legislation requirements remain up-to-date.

The childminder informs Ofsted of all persons who assist her and submits the appropriate forms to enable them to be vetted. As a result, children are only cared for by adults that are suitable to be working with children under the age of eight years.

Most procedures and policies in place effectively contribute to children's health, safety and well-being. The childminder displays her registration certificate so it is clear for parents to see how many children under eight years may be cared for at anyone time. Records maintained show the actual hours children are in attendance.

The childminder is aware the information she holds about the children is confidential so is careful to keep it safe.

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 carry out a risk assessment of the outdoor play area and remove hazards so children are able to play safely and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The action the childminder has taken has improved the health and safety of children.

The garden area is now safe and secure and the necessary permission to ensure children are able to receive appropriate treatment in the event of a medical emergency is now sought.

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 may 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):

- obtain parents' written acknowledgement to any medication given
- ensure food children bring in from home is stored appropriately

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