

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY344344
Inspection date	23 August 2007
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 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 a registered since 2006 and she is a member of the National Childminding Association. She lives with her child, aged under three years old, in the Drayton area of Portsmouth, close to local shops, schools and park.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding one child, aged under a year. Registration includes overnight care.

The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding, with sleeping facilities provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have no pets.

The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group/takes children to the local library/takes children to the local park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a suitable range of activities, which contribute to their good health and they have access to enclosed garden. They have ample opportunities for outside and physical play to help them develop a knowledge and awareness of their own bodies and build up confidence in themselves. They enjoy playing with a range of equipment such as a slide, push along toys, a tunnel, trampoline and a Wendy house and they also regularly visit local community parks.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean, comfortable home. They will receive appropriate treatment, should an accident occur as the childminder has a valid first aid certificate and suitable first aid supplies are maintained. Babies and younger children have their hands and faces cleaned with individual flannels and their nappies are changed frequently to ensure they are kept clean and comfortable. Thorough nappy changing procedures are in place and the childminder wears disposable gloves, to help prevent the spread of infection.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met by agreed arrangements between the childminder and parents. Currently parents supply all children's meals and drinks. Their drinking cups are kept within easy reach so they can access them freely. Children communicate their needs when they are hungry or tired. The baby cries and rubs his eyes when tired and the childminder quickly responds and puts him down for his afternoon nap.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe and they are able to play and move about safely. The childminder supervises them at all times and has addressed most potential hazards. For example, cleaning materials are stored safely out of the reach of children, a safety gate is in place to prevent children using the stairs, all plug sockets have been made safe, helping to protect children. However, the corners of the carpet runner in the hallway have curled up, which may cause a child to trip over them. The premises are secure and the childminder ensures the front door is kept chained, so no unannounced visitors can gain access. Children are safe when sleeping upstairs the childminder provides a travel cot, she uses a baby monitor and visually checks them on a regular basis. The equipment and resources are clean and well-maintained, the childminder checks the toys daily to make sure nothing is broken or damaged and cleans toys regularly, helping to keep children safe. Children are able to access toys and play materials from boxes and low level storage units, developing their independence and allowing them freedom of choice. Children are protected from harm or neglect as the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and would recognise the possible signs of abuse. She would contact the relevant agencies should concerns be identified, helping to ensure children are safe guarded.

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 make themselves at home and are able to make their own choices of toys and play materials. They relate well to each other and learn to interact with their peers, as they socialise with children of various ages. They have opportunities to learn about the local environment on regular outings to the park

and the shops. Children become independent as they choose from a wide variety of toys and play materials, which appeal to all. Children are interested in a suitable range of developmentally appropriate activities, such as colouring and drawing, printing, water play, puzzles, books, construction, role-play and dressing up. They listen and respond with enjoyment to songs and music, as they sing and join in with nursery rhymes and action songs. The childminder spends lots of time playing with and talking to the children, helping to extending their play and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well meet because the childminder provides them with a varied range of age and stage appropriate toys and resources. She works with parents to do what she can to make every child in her care feel comfortable, relaxed and safe and ongoing discussion ensures children are valued and treated as individuals. Children feel secure and have a clear sense of belonging as the childminder follows familiar routines from home. Children are praised and encouraged and to share and taking turns appropriately. Their positive behaviour is promoted and the childminder works closely with parents to ensure her approach is consistent. Although, she is unclear of the varying strategies she would use to manage children's unwanted behaviour, according to their level of understanding, age and stage of development. The childminder provides a suitable range of resources and activities to promote a positive view of the wider world, helping to increase children's awareness of diversity. They develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them through visits into the local community, to the shops and the park.

The childminder has worked well to establish positive relationships with parents. She 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. A daily diary is used to record food intake and nappies changes, helping to keep them well informed. She ensures parents wishes are respected at all times. For example, by using the washable nappies they provide for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel comfortable and relaxed and the childminder treats them as part of her family. They are familiar with daily routines and are confident to explore and initiate their own choices and are able to move freely around the range of activities available in the childminder's home. Parents are welcomed into the setting. They are kept well informed of their child's care and relevant written parental consents are all in place. The childminder has a good understanding of the 14 National Standards and meets them well. All records and documentation is in place for the management of the service and the care of the children ensuring children's health, safety and well being is promoted at all times. The childminder's commitment to further training helps to ensure her knowledge and understanding is kept up to date. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

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 that floor coverings are made safe
- further develop knowledge and understanding of behaviour management

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