

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 115196
Inspection date 30 August 2007
Inspector Michele, Karen Beasley

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 1998. She lives with her husband and three adult children, in a residential area of Felpham, West Sussex. The children have access to the playroom, kitchen/diner and ground floor toilet. There is also a rear garden area suitable for the children to access outside play. The home is within close proximity to local shops, pre-school and school. The family have a dog, cats and rabbits.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder is currently minding 13 children under eight years on a part-time and full time basis.

The childminder holds a recognised qualification in childcare and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well maintained and written information is obtained from parents regarding children's medical history, allergies and special dietary requirements ensuring their individual needs are fully met. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate in place. She records accidents and the administration of medication appropriately. However, written permission has not been gained for emergency medical treatment. Consequently, this does not ensure the children's health and well-being. Children learn the importance of following good personal hygiene routines, for example, they wash their hands before snacks and meals and after going to the toilet.

Parents can supply their own child's meals, however, the childminder has a flexible approach to providing a range of snacks such as fresh fruit and light meals such as sandwiches, pasta, rice and mixed vegetables. She works closely with parents to ensure the children's individual needs are being met and the parents wishes are being respected at all times.

Children have ample opportunities to develop their physical skills, for example, kicking balls, pitching a tent and playing a large snakes and ladders game. The range of equipment used provides ample challenges for all the children who attend, helping to develop their self-confidence and muscle skills. The childminder ensures the children go out daily to reap the benefits of the fresh air and children enjoy their outings to Fishers Farm, bowling and The Weald and Downland Museum.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a safe and secure environment as the childminder has an understanding of the potential dangers and hazards within her home, enabling children to move freely and safely around the premises. For example, stair gates are used to prevent children from accessing areas unsupervised and socket covers are in place. Children learn how to take care of themselves through daily routines, for example, as they talk to the childminder about where it is safe to cross roads when on outings. Children feel safe and are settled due to the good levels of support and supervision provided by the childminder. A fire evacuation plan is in place and fire drills are carried out with the children which ensures children's safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures. Children are able to access the resources freely, developing their independence fully. The maintained toys and play materials are stored in the playroom. Children make their own choices throughout the day and the childminder supports and encourages them enthusiastically, promoting their self-esteem effectively.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are extremely well supported and very much enjoy their time with the childminder. They become increasingly confident and self assured as they are encouraged to play an active role in their learning making decisions about what they want to play with. Children are skilful communicators and use very good language to express themselves as they dress up in Hawaiian

costumes and pretend to hula dance. They relate their play to their own experiences of going on holiday. Children become competent learners as they work out how to make a town out of Happy Land houses, roads and vehicles. They negotiate and individually concentrate on the task as they successfully manage to complete this with their own ideas and the childminder's encouragement.

Interaction between children and the childminder is very good. The childminder has a good understanding of children's developmental needs. She uses the Birth to three framework and Foundation stage tracker books to identify children's developmental needs. She participates during activities and also sits back observing the children, encouraging children to join in. Children have opportunities to develop a good range of skills such as identifying the value of coins on money game cards. They enjoy progressing through handwriting books and educational computer games. Children thrive in the stimulating, exciting and interesting environment.

The childminder asks open-ended questions at every opportunity, encouraging the children to think about what they are doing. She makes eye contact and responds quickly and appropriately to the children, making them feel important. Children benefit from the childminder's strong support, she is calm and affectionate.

Children are able to work things out for themselves and are encouraged to pack away toys, developing their independence effectively. Children are valued as individuals; the childminder differentiates activities and resources well, taking each child's abilities and needs into account. Children's self-confidence is good. Quality conversation flows freely between the children and the childminder, helping to develop the children's communication and social skills effectively.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are extremely confident and self-assured and develop a sense of belonging to the setting. For example, they help the childminder to pack away the toys when they have finished playing. Older children show a caring attitude towards each other as they help each other to reach resources. Children's behaviour is very good and they show high levels of self-esteem responding well to the continual praise and encouragement from the childminder. They are encouraged to say please and thank you and learn good manners as they ask for drinks. All children are valued as individuals and fully included into the setting because the childminder has a very good knowledge of their individual interests and abilities and adapts the experiences she provides.

She has a positive attitude towards caring for children with special needs and helps children to gain an understanding of themselves and the wider world. Children use a range of resources reflecting a diversity of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability and begin to recognise and value the differences and similarities between themselves and others through discussions with the childminder and planned activities. They gain some understanding around special events and cultural festivals celebrated, such as Chinese New Year increasing their awareness of the wider world.

Children benefit from good working relationships between the childminder and their parents. Effective registration and induction procedures help to ensure children settle well and develop a strong sense of self-assurance and help to establish and maintain extremely strong links between home and the setting. Parents are well informed about their child's day through tracker books for children from birth to five years, daily diaries for younger children and informal

discussion about their day. They receive information about the service the childminder provides through a mission statement and written policies and procedures. Parents are encouraged to share concerns with the childminder, ensuring both themselves and their child are happy and reassured in the setting. The introduction of a complaints log has been introduced, however, the procedure for making a complaint has not been discussed with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are occupied and engaged with ample play opportunities during their time at the setting, as the childminder organises the daily routines well. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children's health, safety and wellbeing is promoted as most documentation and procedures are in place and up-to-date.

Children benefit and thrive in a secure and stimulating environment. Children enjoy their time with the childminder as resources and activities are planned well and provide sufficient challenge and the days are full and run smoothly. The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process, keeping children safe.

The childminder is enthusiastic and self-motivated. She is committed to providing a good standard of care for all the children who attend. Children benefit from her calmness and her very good understanding of their individual needs.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children. The childminder has a valid paediatric first aid certificate displayed in the home. This training ensures the children's well being in an emergency. The childminder was also asked to ensure the drain is inaccessible to the children and improve fire safety precautions by maintaining a smoke alarm in the playroom. The outside drain is inaccessible to children and the smoke alarm in the playroom is in working order. This ensures the children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 written permission is gained for emergency medical treatment
- ensure parents are aware of the procedure to make a complaint.

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