

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142018
Inspection date	18 September 2007
Inspector	Claire Sheldrake
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and two grown up children in a detached house in Burnham on Sea. 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, of these only three may be under five years, and of these only one may be under one year. Currently there are nine children on roll. She does not offer overnight care. The family has two cats and two rabbits.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about managing their own health and hygiene needs. They are becoming proficient in recognising that they need to use the bathroom, and are familiar with hand washing routines. The risk of cross infection is reduced through the use of individual paper towels in the bathroom, and latex gloves are used for changing children's nappies.

The childminder is trained in first aid, to support children's health, and a first aid box is kept in the kitchen. A new accident log is available to share with parents, however previous accident and medication records have been destroyed as the children left the childminder's care. Written consent for the seeking of emergency advice and treatment has not been set up with each of the children at the time of their placement, and this is a potential risk to the children's health and safety.

The children enjoy a healthy diet and are offered regular drinks in their own cups, to remain well hydrated. They enjoy the social aspect of sitting together at the table, eating their lunch.

Children have opportunities to experience physical activities in the garden, they enjoy climbing the steps on the slide, scooting along in cars, bouncing on the trampoline and riding the rocking horses. Each one of these activities is well supervised. The children do enjoy activities away from the home too, such as going to the beach and the local park, however the childminder does not have written consent for them to do so at present.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a welcoming and child friendly environment. The playroom is decorated with posters of teddies, animals and Disney characters. A mobile is hung from the ceiling and a large chair is used for a cuddle, and to read a story.

The garden is safely enclosed and whilst the children play, the childminder ensures they remain well supervised.

Children have access to safe toys and equipment, which are suitable for their ages and stages of development. The childminder checks the toys to make sure that there are none with small pieces, which could cause a child to choke.

The children are learning about keeping themselves safe. The childminder explains to the children about the dangers of sharp knives as they play with the kitchen set. They talk about not throwing the rainmaker ball, and the children respond saying " it is in case it breaks, and the baby eats the small balls inside."

The childminder has ensured that her premises are safe for children. The front door is kept locked and she restricts access to the kitchen and the stairs using a stair gate. She has all the required equipment to prevent the children from being at risk from fire.

Children's well being is monitored. The childminder is aware of the safeguarding children guidelines, and the reporting procedures to follow, in a case of child protection. However a lack of important documentation such as consent forms, accident and medication records and contracts, does not effectively support children's safety and protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a variety of toys and resources to support their play and learning. They sit on the floor and search through different toy boxes selecting their favourites. They enjoy placing the cars in a line, and fitting the different sized rings on the post. The children recognise the colours and can name them, as they take it in turns to complete the game.

The children have the opportunities to enjoy role play activities, one child makes cups of tea and hands them around. They sort through the plastic food box, and use toy knives to cut the fruit in half, and collect items to make a layered sandwich.

The children listen to music tapes as they play, and sing along and dance to the familiar tunes. They like to press the buttons on the tape recorder and try to sing into the microphone along with the song.

The childminder sits on the floor with the children and helps them to complete a puzzle. She is encouraging in their efforts and helps them to manage fitting the pieces together.

The children enjoy making marks and drawing around their hands using the Mega sketcher, and want to add detail such as rings and nail varnish. The childminder draws pictures for them to recognise and colour in, such as a spider.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Children are treated with equal concern, and the childminder encourages the children to play together and join in. She recognises their individual needs and responds appropriately, for example, when reassuring one of the children with a dummy and a special blanket.

The childminder has previous experience of supporting children with special needs, and their families. She consults closely with parents, in regard to the child's overall care and development.

Children behave well for the childminder, and respond to her reassurance and support. They are beginning to learn how to share their toys, and the childminder is helping them to play cooperatively. The children enjoy being part of tidy up routines and are keen to put the puzzles away, and the toys back into the box, before going on the rocking horses.

All arrangements with parents as to the care of their children, have been set up verbally, however the childminder does have written contact details, set out on an individual child record form.

There is no further documentation available for inspection, such as emergency consent forms, consent to transport children in a vehicle, or written contracts, to identify that parents are aware of the care and activities, that the children are receiving.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder organises her day to ensure children have opportunities to play indoors with suitable toys and resources, and outdoors enjoying physical activities and fresh air. The childminder is trained in first aid and has been minding children for eight years.

Since August 2007, the childminder has records to show the children's daily attendance, and these include the times of arrival and departure. Previous registers of children's attendance have all been destroyed.

The retention of records relating to individual children, such as registers, accident and medication records, not being kept for the minimum period of two years is a breach of regulation. This lack of documentation and the childminder's poor knowledge of the National Standards,

guidance and regulation, has made an impact on the overall outcome of the childminder's inspection.

Therefore the childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was asked to improve aspects of her documentation. This was to include a policy for sick children, and a written record signed by parents of medication given to children. These recommendations have not been addressed and remain incomplete.

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:

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times. These must include consent forms, accident and medication records, written agreements with parents, and an accurate register of children's attendance
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and the National Standards
- ensure records are retained for appropriate length of time as set out in the regulation

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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