Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	114795
Inspection date	19 August 2005
Inspector	Joanne Lindsey Caswell

Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

This inspection was carried out under the provisions of Part XA of the Children Act 1989, as inserted by the Care Standards Act 2000

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 outstanding. 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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children, in the Ifield area of Crawley, West Sussex. The whole of the property is used for childminding. Toilet and sleep facilities are situated on the first floor. A fully enclosed garden is available for outside play. The family have a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for five children, who attend on a part time basis throughout the week. The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

The childminder attends local pre-school groups and is willing to collect children from local schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive in the childminder's care as she is extremely vigilant in ensuring consistently high levels of clean and hygienic practice. This ensures that children are fully protected from germs and infections as the childminder maintains a scrupulously clean and very well-maintained environment. Children's toys and equipment, such as high chair trays, are cleaned and thoroughly sterilised regularly to protect children from infection. Children learn from a very young age, not to share cups as they understand they must use their own cup to stop germs spreading. Toddlers recognise they cannot use dummies which have been on the floor, as the childminder teaches children she must wash the dummy first, to ensure it is clean and hygienic to use. Nappy change routines prevent the spread of infection between children, as the childminder is extremely aware of the importance of disposing of nappies hygienically and washing her hands and cleaning the changing mat thoroughly between use. The childminder is extremely conscientious in teaching children the importance of good personal hygiene. Daily routines, such as hand washing, are made fun and informative, as the childminder explains to children why they must wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Highly effective strategies, such as novelty soaps, encourage children to wash their hands freely and learn the importance of doing so, in a fun and imaginative format. Children's health and medical needs are identified and fully addressed throughout all areas of childminding practice. The childminder is extremely conscientious in ensuring she obtains all relevant information from parents, regarding all children's health and welfare needs. This enables her to provide for them accordingly within her daily routine and administer any medication, correctly and appropriately. Children's health and physical needs are consistently met as the childminder meticulously plans daily opportunities for children to play in the fresh air and undertake physical exercise to enhance their healthy development. Each child's individual sleep patterns are followed consistently, to ensure children gain sufficient, restful sleep, within a peaceful and comfortable environment.

The childminder plans children's meals and snack times innovatively. Children enjoy fun, sociable occasions, such as regular picnics, enabling them to develop positive attitudes towards healthy eating. The childminder consistently offers well-balanced, highly nutritious meals and snacks, encouraging children to sample a diverse range of foods and tastes to assist their growth and development. Mealtimes are always extremely well-planned to cater for all children's differing needs. Younger children have plenty of time to eat their meals calmly and not feel rushed. Children learn the importance of maintaining a healthy, well-balanced diet as the childminder offers nutritious snacks and encourages children to have regular drinks to ensure their well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in an extremely spacious, well-maintained and secure environment. The childminder is vigilant in identifying and addressing potential hazards and taking necessary precautions to safeguard children. Children play with an extensive range of high quality play materials, which are frequently checked to ensure their safety. Toys are stored effectively to enable children to reach them easily and safely. The childminder has an extremely high regard for teaching children the importance of staying safe, both inside the home and whilst on outings. Young children recognise the importance of keeping toys with small pieces away from babies and toddlers, as they may pose a potential hazard. Older children understand they must not play on the stairs and ensure they close safety gates behind them to prevent babies and toddlers from accessing potential hazards. Children use scissors cautiously and securely away from babies and toddlers. They understand they must sit down whilst using scissors and clearly recognise they may cause themselves, or someone else, an injury if they are not careful. Children are very well protected on outings. They discuss with the childminder potential dangers and hazards to remind them about the importance of staying safe. Effective strategies, such as the use of double buggies and reins, ensure that children are kept safe and are fully supervised at all times. The childminder considers all potential risks and implements strategies to safeguard children, such as the wearing of hand straps, to protect children should they become separated from the childminder. Excellent, highly effective procedures and numerous safety precautions, ensure that children are safeguarded throughout the childminder's home. Children are very well protected in the event of an emergency as the childminder takes all necessary fire precautions to ensure her home is safe and has clearly identified an emergency evacuation procedure. The childminder has devised comprehensive, written strategies detailing her commitment to protecting children from dangers and ensuring their safety in all areas of her childminding practice.

Children are very well protected from harm as the childminder has an extensive knowledge of child protection issues and has updated her training to ensure she is totally familiar with relevant procedures. This ensures that children are fully protected whilst in the childminder's care and the childminder is able to implement necessary procedures, should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an extensive range of play and learning opportunities. They participate in daily outings and activities, which broaden their experiences and develop their interests in the world around them. Children frequently socialise with other children and enjoy regular outings to adventure playgrounds, farms, parks and places of interest. Children's developmental needs are consistently met. The childminder has an extensive knowledge and understanding of child development, enabling her to plan suitably challenging activities and play opportunities to

encourage children to reach appropriate milestones. For example, non-mobile babies are gently encouraged to gain the muscle development to crawl, stand unsupported and take steps unaided, using the appropriate play materials to encourage movement. Children play extremely imaginatively. They have freedom of choice to select their own play and games and express their own ideas. Babies and toddlers express themselves enthusiastically using sounds and gestures, which the childminder clearly understands and responds to. Language and communication skills are gently encouraged through the use of books, reinforcing vocabulary and conversation, to encourage repetition of words and sounds. Children show delight, wonder and excitement as they play with balloons with the childminder and excitedly chase them round the room. All children are fully engaged in play and activities and show high levels of concentration and interest. Older children readily take turns during play and games, showing respect and maturity as they wait their turn patiently. The childminder successfully shares her attention equally between all the children in her care. She interacts extremely positively with all children and develops strong and trusting relationships. Children enjoy high levels of physical affection, cuddles and kisses, particularly during personal care routines, such as nappy changes, when children enjoy plenty of individual attention. This enables children to feel extremely settled, relaxed, happy and secure in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is extremely vigilant in listening to children, enabling them to feel valued and develop high levels of self-esteem. Children choose their own play and games, ensuring they develop confidence and feel respected. The childminder is exceptionally committed to ensuring she obtains all necessary information from parents, regarding each child's individual care needs. She obtains a wealth of information, including each child's home religion, health needs and family customs. This enable her to address each child's needs accordingly and be mindful and respectful of any specific needs. Children are consistently treated fairly and equally as the childminder demonstrates total commitment to promoting anti-discriminatory practice in all areas of her childminding. She teaches children about diversity and enables children to see positive images of culture, gender, age, disability, custom and religion in books and reflected in their toys and resources. The childminder has a substantial knowledge of caring for children with special needs. She is extremely committed to meeting all children's individual personal needs. This ensures all children are welcomed into her home and feel valued and respected. Children behave extremely well. They clearly understand acceptable boundaries and through clear explanations from the childminder, confidently recognise right from wrong. Children share and negotiate extremely well and understand the importance of taking turns. The childminder demonstrates a very calm, competent and patient approach to managing children's behaviour, which children respond positively to. Unacceptable behaviour is dealt with swiftly and effectively, ensuring children quickly recognise the implications of their behaviour and clearly learn why it is unacceptable. The childminder forms successful and strong partnerships with parents and carers. She maintains an extensive range of written material for parents. This ensures parents are fully informed of all her childminding policies to ensure that children's care

routines are discussed and agreed. This promotes consistency for children between routines followed at home, and those implemented by the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder demonstrates excellence and professionalism in all areas of her childminding practice. She is extremely dedicated to providing the highest standards of childcare. The childminder is highly motivated to increase her knowledge and skills and is proactive in her approach to the completion of further training. This enables her to provide consistently high standards of care and ensures she keeps abreast of best practice issues. Children are carefully protected from adults who have not been vetted, as effective procedures are in place and all necessary checks are carried out. The daily routine is organised extremely effectively. This ensures children's differing needs are fully met, within the conditions of registration. The childminder has a systematic approach to managing her documentation. All regulatory documentation is maintained in full and is stored confidentially. The childminder provides a wealth of written information and documentation. This clearly explains her childminding service and reflects her thorough organisation and commitment to high quality.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection, the childminder agreed to obtain up-to-date child protection policies. The childminder has completed this by undertaking relevant child protection training and obtaining appropriate Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures. This ensures that children are fully protected in the childminder's care, as the childminder is fully aware of her responsibilities regarding the care and welfare of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: *www.ofsted.gov.uk*