

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY348126
Inspection date 07 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 satisfactory. 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 2007. She lives with her partner and pre-school aged child in a mid-terrace house in a residential area of Fratton. All areas of the home are suitable for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden which is available for outside play. The house is within walking distance to local shops, school and parks. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time during the day and one child overnight. Currently three children are on roll; all attend part-time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from the spread of germs and infection through the effective procedures and practices the childminder has in place. The premises are kept satisfactorily clean and all surfaces are wiped prior to the preparation and serving of food. Children are becoming aware of their own personal hygiene through daily routines. For example, they are reminded to wash their hands after messy play and toileting and prior to eating any meals or snacks. Each child has their own individual terry towel to dry their hands on so they are protected from the risk

of cross infection. Equipment, such as babies' high chairs and feeding utensils are cleaned after use.

Appropriate procedures are in place for dealing with injuries; the childminder holds a current first aid certificate, seeks the necessary permission to be able to deal with emergency first aid situations and all accidents to children are shared with parents. Although the childminder only administers medication to children that their parents have supplied she only gets their verbal agreement as to how and when it should be administered.

Children are protected from the spread of illness through the clear policies in place regarding the attendance of sick children. Children, who become sick while attending the childminder, are cared for sensitively until their parents arrive. Younger children are able to sleep and rest according to their needs.

Children experience and enjoy a range of outdoor activities which contributes to their good health and physical development. They have access to the rear garden and are taken on regular walks and outings around the local area visiting places of interest such as the museum, dock yard and parks.

Children are provided with a selection of meals and snacks which are healthy, nutritious and comply with all their dietary requirements which ensure they remain healthy. Meals are supplied by the childminder; they are prepared from scratch using fresh ingredients and include a selection of fresh meat, pasta and vegetables dishes, snacks consist of fresh fruit. The childminder encourages children to taste three pieces of vegetable or fruit that they have not tried before to see if they like or dislike them, for this, children are rewarded with a certificate. Children are regularly offered milk shakes, sugar free juice and water to drink which ensures they do not de-hydrate.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure environment, which is effectively organised to enable them to move around safely. All toys and equipment are suitable and appropriate for the age range of children attending; the childminder checks the toys children use to ensure they are safe.

Children are constantly supervised and the childminder carries out a risk assessment of all areas children have access to; appropriate safety measures in place prevent children accessing areas unsupervised. The premises are kept secure and systems in place ensure only authorised persons gain entry. Children are able to access the toys and resources made available to them safely.

Good systems and procedures are in place for the collection of children; children are only allowed to be collected by persons their parents have authorised. In the event of a child not being collected the childminder has appropriate systems and procedures in place to ensure children are kept safe. In addition to this systems in place ensure in the event of the childminder being absent through an emergency children are only cared for by adults that are suitable.

The childminder keeps a record of children attending, however, these are not consistently filled in each day to show the actual time they are present. Only verbal agreement is sought from parents for the childminder to take children out of the home environment for outings and walks. The childminder has thought through the procedures she would follow if it were necessary

to evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency, however, these have not been discussed with children. As a result children's safety is compromised.

Children's welfare is fully protected The childminder has good knowledge of the procedures she should follow if abuse of a child were suspected or if an allegation of abuse were to be made against her or other members of the household. Parents are informed of the childminders responsibility as a day care provider to report any concerns she may have in order to protect children's well-being. In addition to this systems are in place to record any injuries children may come in with. As a result children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect.

If overnight care is provided for children the childminder ensures no-one over the age of 16 years that has not been suitably vetted stays on the premises, and, during bath-time or when children are undressing no person other than the childminder has access to them. As a result children's privacy is respected and they are kept safe.

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 relate well to the childminder and enjoy her company. She interacts with the children well and ensures their individual needs are tended to. When children are tired they are comforted by 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 spend their time purposefully, they have access to a range of activities indoors and outdoors which are appropriate for their age and stage of development. For example, they paint pebbles which they later take home and in a scrap book they keep samples of their craft work, and photographs that show them engaging in various activities and the places they have visited.

Children are kept fully occupied during school holiday periods; the childminder obtains information of activities or events that she can take the children to around the area in which she lives. For example, children talk about the animals they saw at a recent trip to a park.

Children respond well to the praise they are given in recognition of their achievements which raises their confidence and self esteem. Younger children are beginning to socialise with other children and adults through their regular attendance at local toddler groups and visits they make to other childminder's houses.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to make their own choices of activities from the range of resources available. They are learning how to respect and care for the toys because they are encouraged to help the childminder carefully pack them away when they have finished playing.

Children are becoming aware of the boundaries and behavioural expectations of the setting through the consistent guidance they receive, which is appropriate to their age and stage of development. They are aware that some children may have additional needs and show concern and sensitivity towards them.

Children benefit from the effective 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 and their individual needs met. Some agreements the childminder has with parents are only verbal. As a result, it is not clear to see whether children are being cared for in accordance with their parents wishes at all times.

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. Children's initial hours of attendance are able to be flexible. The childminder explains to parents the operational procedures of the provision and gives them a copy of the policies and procedures she works to which ensures the child's transition from home to the childminder's is smooth. Children settle well in a home from home environment and enjoy the childminder's company.

Parents are informed of the procedures they should follow if they have any concerns with the care their children receive or the setting. They have access to the regulatory bodies contact details and procedures the childminder has in place to deal with any complaints she may receive direct ensure they would be dealt with appropriately and responded to within the required timescale.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by a suitably experienced and qualified childminder. The childminder provides a friendly environment where children feel at home and at ease. Children feel confident and secure in the childminder's company.

Indoor play space is laid out to maximise children's play opportunities and experiences. They can be easily supervised while they play and are able to move freely around the lower floor of the premises. Constant supervision and procedures in place ensure children are never left alone with persons who have not been suitably vetted

Parents are welcomed into the home and kept well informed of the care provided for their children. The childminder displays her registration certificate so parents are able to see how many children may be cared for at any one time during the day and overnight.

Most practices and procedures in place effectively contribute to children's health and well-being. However, because parental permission is not sought for some activities children engage in and some records are not maintained in sufficient detail as required this is impacting on the safety of children.

The childminder is aware that information she holds about children is confidential so is careful to keep it safe; each child has their own individual folder that contains their personal details and permission slips for the care they are able to receive as given by their parents.

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

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 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 satisfactory. 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 sought from parents prior to giving medication to children
- ensure children's records of attendance are consistently filled in to show their exact times of arrival and departure
- obtain written permission from parents to take children out of the home
- ensure all children are aware of the procedures they should follow should the premises need evacuating in an emergency

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