

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY295012
Inspection date 16 July 2007
Inspector Christine Clint

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 2004. He lives with his wife, who is also a registered childminder and their three children, one of whom is educated at home. They live in a five bedroom house in the village of Liphook, Hampshire, which is within walking distance of local parks, shops and schools.

All younger children are cared for on the ground floor and babies have one dedicated safe room. Older children use the sitting room and the entrance hall, there is also an extra room on the ground floor. A first floor bedroom is available for sleeping babies or for older children to play, at times. There is an enclosed rear garden and children can use the front garden when this is secure. The family have a rabbit, two guinea pigs and indoor fish.

The childminder holds a Level 3 certificate in Child Care and Education and has a current certificate in first aid training. He is a member of the National Childminding Association. During the inspection the childminder was jointly caring for three children. There are 11 children who are cared for by the childminder and his wife during term time and during the holidays.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's hygiene is well maintained within the busy family home because the childminder shows dedication and attention to meeting individual children's needs. The childminder instantly recognises the need to change the babies and competently uses a disposable changing mat. Hand washing routines are automatically followed. Children are frequently reminded to wash their hands, especially when they come inside from the garden and the babies have their hands wiped because they have been stroking the guinea pigs and feeding the rabbit. They wash the raspberries that they have just picked and their hands are wiped again after eating the raspberries. Children talk about the plants in the garden, they collect the seeds and make a collage, they are learning to name the plants and they know which ones can sting and feel rough to touch.

Children's individual sleep patterns are well known to the childminder and he is aware of children who are not feeling so settled. They are given ample affection, they are held and carried when this is needed. They have regular routines for sleeping in a large pram, a travel cot or buggy, or they sometimes sleep comfortably on the childminder's lap. Children have sand play in the garden, although this is currently covered because the rain has filled the container.

All required documentation is thoroughly in place to support any accidents, medication records or permission from parents. A first aid kit is readily available. Parents are well informed about illness and contagious diseases and children do not attend if they are unwell.

Children eat together in the kitchen and all feeding arrangements for babies are fully organised with parents. Babies sit in high chairs and they are encouraged to feed themselves. The childminder is prepared to offer flexible arrangements for providing food for babies and older children and has a good understanding of food hygiene. Children bring packed lunches and they are encouraged to eat together. Children are given healthy snack foods, they eat apples and try the raspberries from the garden. The childminder has previously cared for children with food allergies and is aware of meeting individual dietary needs.

Children have some opportunities to develop physical skills because they are taken out regularly, they go for nature walks and often use larger outdoor apparatus in a local activity centre. Photographic evidence shows that children learn to move spontaneously, negotiate space and balance confidently, although there is less physical play apparatus available in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safely cared for within the family home because they are supervised at all times and mostly cared for by both jointly registered childminders. Babies have a dedicated central room which has stair gates on both doors, they can crawl and clamber safely in this area and the childminder is very aware about suitable play equipment for their age and stage of development; they have a good range of accessible play equipment on the floor. Babies and smaller children can be easily supervised in this area at all times. Older children can use other rooms on the ground floor for quiet play or to complete educational activities. Children can choose activities at any time, they play happily with the dolls house in the same area as the younger children.

Children are continually supervised in the garden and their safety is a priority. Smaller children are carried at times and they stand and crawl on the blanket. They are closely managed when stroking and feeding the animals. All safety requirements are in place within the home and fire equipment is regularly maintained; a fire escape plan is practised. The childminder has a thorough risk assessment process and this is documented. There are policies in place for lost or uncollected children. All insurance certificates for public liability and car transport are available.

Children's welfare is fully supported because the childminder has a good understanding of safeguarding children at all times. He has attended training and is aware of referring concerns to other agencies. There is information for parents to explain the childminder's duty to respond to children's needs and all injuries that children have on arrival are recorded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Babies are supported in their development because the childminder shows a full understanding of their needs and provides opportunities for them to crawl and clamber onto the ride on toys. They toddle around the furniture and play with a variety of suitable equipment at floor level. Children are given ample one to one attention and affection from the family. Their needs for security and reassurance are swiftly recognised and the childminder offers understanding and gives attention. Children's daily routines are organised with their parents and they have time in the garden for fresh air and exercise; their individual routines for sleeping are included during the day. The childminder jointly uses the Birth to three framework extensively and records of children's progress are available.

Older children are settled and secure, they happily involve themselves in family life and make choices about their activities. They choose which educational programme they will watch and they talk about previous outings to London. Children are happy to choose equipment and create their own games with the dolls house and the horses. They have confidence and ask for stories to be read and they happily sit with family members to read from pictures.

Children are learning through their play and through planned outings to provide and broaden their everyday knowledge. They are forming relationships and they show independence in selecting and carrying out activities. Children make choices readily and behave appropriately with younger children. They listen and respond, they remember and describe previous experiences. Children have previously been shopping and counted out the money, they have learned to use different equipment when helping in the garden and their progress with using scissors is identified. Children take part in planned outings and their activities are recorded, they often complete a craft activity after the outing and this enables them to repeat and learn whilst talking and remembering. Children's learning and development is entirely at their own pace and this is agreed with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and the childminder is clearly aware of their individual needs. Children have opportunities to use some equipment which reflects the diversity within society. They play with a selection of soft dolls with different skin colours, they have a school bus with small people with disabilities and there are many books with stories from different cultures. The childminder has experience of caring for children with learning difficulties and is aware of providing support.

Children are learning about good behaviour by following the examples set within the household. Children are encouraged to be polite to each other and to share equipment. The childminder uses distraction very effectively with the babies and there are clearly stated boundaries for older children, these include rewards for good behaviour. The childminder understands that children need to gain self esteem and that this encourages taking responsibility for their own behaviour.

Children are settled because their parents have established good relationships with the childminder and all information is clearly shared. Parents have included very positive statements in the recently completed questionnaire which the childminder has carried out. All records are in place for individual children and all parental permission is signed. Parents also sign to confirm that they have read all the policies and procedures in place and this includes a complaints procedure. Younger children have daily diaries to inform parents of their routines and development and parents can use these for sharing any information. Older children, whose education is included have records of development which parents always see at the end of every term and they can also add any developmental achievements which take place at home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's daily care is fully organised because the childminder has prepared a portfolio and this is jointly shared between the childminder and his wife, who is also registered. All written policies and procedures have been updated to ensure that regulations are in place and that parents are informed. Children enjoy a family environment which allows them choice and a variety of activities during the day. They are comfortable in the home and all the family keenly participate in the care of the children when they are present.

All clearance details are available and the registration certificate is displayed. Children's attendance is clearly recorded and up to date. The childminder shows a clear commitment to continued learning and he has achieved a Level 3 qualification in child care and education. He has also attended many training courses. The childminder understands his responsibility to maintain the ratios of adults to children and to meet the conditions of the registration. He is aware of notifying Ofsted of any regulatory changes. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to further develop existing policies and procedures to ensure that parents are kept well informed of their children's care and welfare. The childminder was also asked to ensure that all outdoor play equipment is well maintained.

A full range of policies and procedures are in place and these are all up to date. Parents sign to confirm that they have read all the policies and procedures to ensure children's welfare.

The garden swing had a slight split in the seat and this has been changed. The climbing frame has been dismantled because it became unsafe. Children are supervised when using outdoor play equipment.

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 that all areas on the ground floor are utilised when jointly caring for children
- increase the variety of physical play opportunities in the garden

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