

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY265174
Inspection date	04 September 2007
Inspector	Coral Hales
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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged four and seven in Whiteley, Hampshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the upstairs for sleeping children. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five during the day and three over five before and after school and during the holidays. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight. She walks to local schools to take and collect children, and attends the local parent and toddler groups. The childminder is a member of the National Child Minding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an extremely clean and welcoming family home where effective health and hygiene routines are followed. Children are encouraged to develop clear and thorough

health and hygiene practices as part of regular routines and are becoming independent in their self-help skills. They receive suitable care in the event of illness or an accident as the childminder keeps her first aid qualification up-to-date. Parents are informed of any injuries that may occur and consent for emergency treatment/advice is maintained. A record of medications given is kept, however not all parents sign to give prior written permission. Nappy changing procedures ensure that children are protected from infection, for example, the childminder uses gloves and disposes of used nappies suitably.

Children are well nourished. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the importance of a healthy balanced diet and introduces lots of fresh foods into their diets. At snack time children enjoy fresh strawberries, bananas and grapes and drinks are available at all times. Their dietary needs are met as the childminder ensures that she respects parent's wishes regarding food given. Children are provided with light snack lunches and then enjoy home cooked nutritious meals at the end of the day.

Children take part in a good range of activities which contribute to their health and this enables them to develop their physical skills. Outside facilities in the garden and in the local park give them a sense of freedom as they play. Walks to and from the local school and pre-school and outings around the local community encourage children's enjoyment of being outside in the fresh air.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play happily in the childminder's home and her good understanding of safety issues ensure that they are well protected from harm. The premises are secure, doors are kept locked with the key accessible in case of emergencies and the garden is fully enclosed. Children's safety is well maintained in the event of a fire, as drills are carried out to ensure they are familiar with procedures. Records of fire drills are not maintained. The childminder supervises the children well and she, through discussion, ensures that they are aware of safety rules and simple road side practices on the walk to school. This enables the children to begin to take some responsibility for their own safety when out. In the home the children are learning to put toys away when finished to prevent accidents.

An inviting range of safe, attractive, interesting and appropriate toys are available. These are suitable for the age range attending and are readily accessible in cupboards, boxes and wheeled trolleys for the children to freely select from.

Children are well protected, as the childminder understands her role in child protection and is aware of her responsibilities for their welfare. She has attended additional training to further develop her knowledge. She is able to put appropriate procedures into place if necessary and has information relating to The Local Safeguarding Children Board to support her practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children engage in a wide range of activities that support their progress and development. They have opportunities to use a good range of resources, for example, they sit together to share a story and use small world equipment to create a railway track. They visit local groups where they enjoy different craft and messy play, for example, playing in rice. This allows them to develop social skills within their peer group. Children progress well because the childminder

has a good understanding of their stage of development and interacts with them well to promote their learning. For example, the youngest children are beginning to experiment with vocabulary and they are carefully listened to and acknowledged. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework as a reference point.

Children develop their creativity and their artwork, for example, hand printing is displayed around the playroom. Photographs of children taking part in a good variety of activities, both within the home and when out at different groups are shared with the parents. This ensures that they are regularly updated on children's progress and achievements. Children are confident to approach the childminder for support or to show her what they are doing, or just for a cuddle. They regularly go on outings to socialise for example, to country parks, the seaside and local attractions. This helps to develop their understanding of the wider community and broadens and expands their range of experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's sense of belonging is fostered through the warm, welcoming and homely atmosphere and they are very much part of the extended family. The childminder works very closely with parents to meet children's individual needs and to ensure they are fully included in all activities. Close and caring relationships have developed and this increases children's sense of trust and helps them to develop their confidence and builds their self-esteem.

Children behave generally well because the childminder has a consistent approach in her management and this teaches them to share, take turns and begin to understand how their behaviour affects others. They are developing an awareness of the wider community through sensitive discussions about how others live and why people are all different. Suitable resources support children's learning. At present there are no children attending with identified learning difficulties and/or disabilities. However, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of the need to explore specific needs through discussion with parents in order to assess how all children's individual needs can be met.

Children benefit from the close working relationships that the childminder has established with parents and they regularly exchange information, both in writing and verbally. For example, a daily diary is shared for the younger child and a memory book containing photographic evidence is shared for the other pre-school child. A complaints policy is in place which is shared with parents and they are aware of the Ofsted poster, although this is not displayed. The childminder is not however, secure in her understanding of the new guidance issued and details included in her policy are out of date. Written agreements are in place to ensure all are clear of their roles and responsibilities. Parents have confirmed in writing that the childminders good practice benefits their children significantly.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the effective and efficient organisation and by the childminder's professional attitude to her work. Policies and procedures support her practice and documentation and children's records are maintained and stored suitably to maintain confidentiality.

The premises are well-organised to meet the needs of the children and they benefit from the good use of space within the home and garden which enables them to play happily. This includes a separate playroom that is well stocked with toys and resources to support and develop their learning.

Good relationships with parents ensure that information is shared and the childminder and the parents work together to promote the children's safety, good health, progress and development. Records of attendance are in place and maintained daily and the childminder's registration certificate is clearly displayed for parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed that the fire blanket was to be fitted securely in the kitchen and that she would increase her knowledge of child protection procedures. The fire blanket is now sited in a suitable place within the kitchen. She has developed her knowledge of child protection issues by attending a recognised training course and suitable and current documentation supports her practice. These recommendations have therefore been met and ensure that children's safety and welfare is maintained.

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):

- develop knowledge and understanding of the new complaints guidance and ensure information given to parents is current.

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