



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113925
Inspection date	30 August 2005
Inspector	Karin Lane
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 1999. He lives with his wife, a grown up son and their two teenage daughters, in Southwater, West Sussex. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children, and when working with another childminder, they are registered to care for a maximum of ten children at any one time. Currently three children under five years are being cared for part-time, and eight children before and after school. Children are taken to school by car.

The family has a pet dog and two cats.

The childminder is a member of a local childminding group and attends meetings on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy environment, with good arrangements to protect them from any risks associated with pets. The well being of children is promoted by effective procedures if they become unwell, have minor accidents or require medication. Children benefit from learning about good hygiene through following hand washing routines before eating and discussing why this is necessary with the childminder. Suitable arrangements promote hygiene, although the clean towel provided daily is shared by all the children present, which could lead to the spread of infection. Children are well protected from the sun, for instance a gazebo is used in the garden to give shade during play activities and during outdoor meals. Children enjoy opportunities for vigorous physical play each day which aids their physical development. For example, they use a trampoline or push and ride toys in the garden and play games such as baseball and football at a nearby park. Nutritious food, including vegetables and fruit are provided for children, who eat socially together at mealtimes. Specific dietary needs are respected and children are offered frequent drinks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a spacious, well maintained home provided by the childminder. Most safety measures are in place, however children's safety is compromised as children can leave the front garden unattended and they are at risk from the heavy lids of wooden toy boxes, which the childminder has not identified as hazards. Children are helped to learn how to keep themselves safe by wearing seat belts in the car, and holding hands near roads. They are well supervised on outings, learning for instance not to go in the sea unattended, and to stay within set boundaries and in sight of a flag at the beach. A wide range of suitable, good quality toys and equipment is available for children to access independently. Equipment is used well by children for both indoor and outdoor play. The wellbeing of children is promoted as the childminder has good knowledge about child protection procedures and knows what to do if concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well stimulated, they enjoy planned and flexible activities linked to their interests. They are taken on outings to local fields and woods, and are supported by the childminder to make dens and take part in scavenger hunts observing nature, these practical hands-on experiences aid learning. The needs of younger children are met as they learn for instance, to gain independence when eating and when they need to rest showing an increasing awareness of their bodies. Children are encouraged to talk, they are articulate and socialise well with each other during their play. They do their homework together and help each other, showing they are becoming aware of other's needs. Children are happy, confident and secure, thriving from a good rapport with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit because the childminder understands that children develop at different rates and have differing needs. These needs are met by having good knowledge about the children cared for and adjusting activities to ensure all are included. The care of children is enhanced as the childminder provides good information for parents, including a web-site about the service provided. Partnership with parents supports the care of all children, including those with special needs well. Suitable resources, for instance dressing-up clothes, and direct experiences help children learn about diversity. Toys and activities attract both boys and girls and they develop independence by being able to freely access these resources. Children behave very well because they understand the expectations of the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is promoted because the childminder maintains all required documentation. They benefit because the childminder has attended training and workshops, including the Birth to three matters framework and outdoor play activities, enhancing his knowledge of childcare. Time is organised well to meet the needs of all children, following daily routines, with opportunities for indoor and outdoor play and time for homework after school. Children become confident in the well organised environment provided.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection the childminder was asked to improve the detail of attendance records, to obtain written permission from parents before giving children medicine and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Attendance records are well maintained and up-to-date. The childminder co-minds with another registered childminder, and separate records are kept showing that ratios are being maintained and who is responsible for the children present. Parents have completed medication forms prior to medicines being given by the childminder, ensuring clear instructions are in place. Written permission has been obtained from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. These measures contribute to the welfare of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 1: Suitable Person. This concern was investigated by another agency. No action was taken by Ofsted. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 children cannot leave the garden unattended and are protected from the risk posed by toy box lids.

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