

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110627
Inspection date	11 September 2007
Inspector	Hazel Stuart-Buddery

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 1988. She lives with her husband and their two adult children in Fleet in Hampshire. The childminder may care for a maximum of six children and currently has two children on the register.

The property is within close proximity to schools, shops and parks. The minded children have access to the ground floor with sleeping facilities on the first floor and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. There is a family dog and the childminder is a member of the National childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean and well maintained environment, where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene. Effective daily routines for nappy changing and hand washing help to prevent the spread of infection. For example, the childminder wears gloves to change nappies,

sanitizes the changing mat after every use and disposes of the nappy outside; all children have individual towels and face cloths.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication, this ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. All required documentation is accurately maintained. Children benefit from healthy, balanced lunches and snacks. All dietary and medical needs are discussed with parents and recorded on children's record forms. Children have independent access to drinks throughout the day, this helps them to make their own healthy, lifestyle choices.

Babies are encouraged to develop their physical skills. A range of activities such as stacker cups and musical toys are easily accessible, this helps them to develop their hand and eye co-ordination. Walkers are available for when children are ready to make their next steps in their development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from playing in a spacious and organised environment. This allows them to move around freely and safely. The environment is warm and welcoming. Pictures and art work completed by the children are displayed on the walls. They have easy and safe access to a wide range of good quality, age appropriate toys. The childminder rotates the toys regularly to keep children's interest and offers a greater variety. Children play in a safe and secure environment. Hazards around the home have been identified and minimized, and children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised.

Children are safe from the risks of fire. The childminder has a written fire escape plan, that she advises is practised with the children. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are in place. Effective child protection procedures promote and safeguard children's welfare, while they are in the childminder's care. Relevant phone numbers and publications are at hand should they be needed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. They enjoy a wide variety of activities that are appropriate to their stage of development. The childminder offers lots of individual support to young babies and toddlers. She enhances their play with direct involvement, while encouraging them to explore and investigate for themselves. Babies enjoy investigating musical instruments with the childminder. They stand up and lean against the childminder's lap, while she plays the different instruments. The babies listen carefully and smile happily as the whistle is blown, they reach out their hands to try and touch it. When the cymbals are clapped together the babies chuckle and laugh out loud, as they jump up and down on the spot. The expression on their faces show how much they enjoy this activity. Older children enjoy craft activities. The walls are decorated with pictures and art work that they have completed. Children are content and happy in their surroundings. They benefit from the childminder's care and affection and as a result make good progress in their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with respect and given choices helping them to feel good about themselves. The childminder has a good understanding of equality of opportunity and encourages children

to learn about differences through discussion and good use of resources. Children benefit from the childminder's positive behaviour management. She has a written policy that is shared with parents. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement and have a good sense of well-being.

The childminder works with parents to ensure their wishes are respected. She discusses needs of the children thoroughly to ensure continuity of care is offered. Some written policies are in place and shared with parents, although parents have not been informed about the complaints procedure. The childminder takes time on a regular basis to talk to parents about the progress of their child. These measures help to promote partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy in a child friendly and caring environment. They are relaxed, settled and benefit from an organised home. Children receive appropriate levels of support from the childminder and good relationships are fostered.

The childminder has an adequate awareness of the National Standards, although is not aware of all the legislation changes. She has not obtained relevant checks for all adult members of the household. She maintains her paperwork well and provides some written policies and procedures. The childminder has not implemented all the changes in the October 2005 addendum to the National Standards and does not have a complaints procedure. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the daily registers are maintained with the required details; ensure the first aid box contents are checked frequently and replaced as necessary. The childminder maintains an accurate record of attendance and had purchased a new first aid box, which she advises is checked regularly. These improvements ensure that the welfare and safety of the children are promoted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 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 all relevant checks are completed for adult members of the household
- implement and share with parents a complaints procedure in line with the October 2005, addendum to the National Standards.

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