

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124527
Inspection date	22 August 2007
Inspector	Catherine Hill
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 registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 10 and 18 years. They live in a house in a residential area in Fleet, Hampshire. The home is within walking distance of local schools, preschools, shops and parks. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for minding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder can care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding one child under a year on a part-time basis during the week. The family have a dog, rabbit and goldfish to which children have supervised access to. The childminder has a NNEB qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder follows effective procedures and practices which meet children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children are very well protected from illness and infection. The childminder wears gloves when changing nappies and ensures children are kept clean and comfortable whilst in her care. She is vigilant to children's needs and works in close partnership

with parents to ensure children's daily routines are followed. Children rest and sleep according to their needs. They play within a very clean home environment and receive good support to develop healthy bodies. Babies have good opportunities to develop their muscle tone as they practise rolling on clean, clear floors to reach for toys. The childminder contributes positively to their emotional well-being as she allows children to follow their own interests which reduces the incidents when they may feel frustration. Children smile and play happily as they feel secure and they enjoy the positive attention and cuddles they receive from the childminder. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and is able to provide children with appropriate care should they have an accident. She has attended food hygiene and food safety training and has a sound understanding of how to promote children's good health through a balanced, varied diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children separate happily from parents and settle very quickly in the lovely warm, friendly, and child orientated environment of the childminder's home. They are happy within the dedicated playroom where wall transfers, mobiles and accessible resources provide a stimulating surround for play and learning. Resources are age appropriate and provide children with opportunities for development in all skill areas. Children develop in independence as they reach out to play with, for example, toy cars and soft toys. The childminder introduces new toys, as required, to maintain children's interest and stimulation. Children play safely as the childminder has identified and minimized hazards within the home. She is very vigilant to children's safety and carries out recorded checks of sleeping children every 10 minutes. She checks her home daily for safety and has written policies and procedures to support her practice. For example, she has a fire exit plan clearly detailing the exit route from all rooms used for minding. Children's welfare is enhanced as the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection procedures. She has a written policy which she shares with parents although does not have a copy of the Government booklet regarding safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are extremely happy and smiles and gurgles of delight are almost constant as the childminder lovingly interacts with them. They gain in confidence as the childminder sensitively supports children to learn at their pace. They find a voice as the childminder sits facing them responding to their facial expressions and vocalisations. They nestle snugly against the childminder as she reads to them and in turn they gurgle back at her as they touch the pages in the book. They show an interest in their surroundings and gaze in fascination at the sight and sound of a 'rainmaker' toy. They watch intently as the childminder demonstrates a multi-sensory toy drum to them and then excitedly try patting it themselves. The childminder has experience of working with regard to the Birth to three matters framework and has individual development folders for children in which she will track their progress in line with the framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have fun with the childminder as she is kind, caring and attentive to their individual needs. They delight in positive physical contact as they receive cuddles from the childminder and babies look at her and beam broadly as she tickles their feet. They develop in confidence

as they receive praise and positive verbal acknowledgement of their efforts. The childminder has a good understanding of how to support children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities as she has had training relating to special educational needs and inclusion. She has a variety of resources to develop children's knowledge of the wider world, although those reflecting varying needs are limited. She acts as a calm, positive role model with regard to behaviour and children do not become frustrated within her care as they are sensitively supported to develop at their own pace. The childminder has good relationships with parent and she exchanges both verbal and written information with them. Children benefit from this effective partnership between their main carers as the exchange of information ensures their individual needs are continually met. The childminder has a range of policies for sharing with parents regarding her practice, although the complaints procedure does not show Ofsted's current contact address.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her practice well to provide children with a stimulating home environment for their care and learning. Children are very happy within her care and have fun as they are sensitively supported with their play. The childminder understands the importance of a positive partnership with parents contributing to children's continued well being and happiness. She has a range of written information to share with parents, although some lacks a little detail. She is enthusiastic and has a very good relationship with minded children. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has improved the safety of her toys and equipment. She ensures resources are well maintained by carrying out daily safety checks and by regular cleaning.

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):

- extend the variety of resources accessible to children which show boys and girls and men and women with varying needs
- improve documentation by including Ofsted's address within the complaints procedure and by obtaining a copy of the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused - Summary'.

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