



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	114518
Inspection date	02 August 2005
Inspector	Diane Ryan

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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1991. She lives with her husband, three adult children and three children of senior school age, in Chichester, West Sussex. The playroom, dining room and front bedroom areas of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently

mind 14 children, all of whom attend on a part time basis or before and after school. The childminder collects children from local schools and playgroups and takes them to local parent and toddler groups, the local library, and to nearby parks.

The family have fish and a rabbit.

The childminder supports children who have special educational needs. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home, where they learn and understand the importance of good hygiene. They wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet, thereby keeping themselves healthy and free of germs. The spread of infection is reduced because the childminder has an effective policy in place regarding children's attendance when they are unwell.

Children benefit from a healthy diet; they have a good understanding of which foods are good for them. Children sit at the table to eat meals together, encouraging good manners and making meals a social time. Written permission for seeking emergency medical treatment is obtained from parents and the childminder records all accidents, incidents and medication given.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities, which contribute to a healthy lifestyle. All children have an understanding of their body's need for rest as well as physical activity. Children have opportunities to use a wide range of outdoor activities, and go on long walks, therefore keeping them healthy and helping them develop self-confidence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and safe environment. Space is organised excellently and children can play and move about freely, gaining independence and confidence. A safe range of furniture, toys, resources and equipment is in place, in good condition and regularly checked by the childminder. Children have easy access to the toys and resources, making their own choices of activities and thus gaining independence and self-confidence

The childminder's excellent supervision keeps the children safe; she takes good steps to minimise risks, ensuring children's safety both inside and outdoors. On outings, the childminder ensures all suitable safety procedures are in place, keeping the children safe. There is a good fire evacuation policy and all children know what to do in the event of a fire; however, they have never practised this procedure.

The childminder has an excellent knowledge of her role in child protection and is able to put appropriate procedures into practice. This is supported by her effective policies, in order to keep children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder builds positive relationships with all the children and has an excellent understanding of them. Children are confident and relaxed, and approach the childminder for support. They are fully occupied, interested and supported at all times, enabling them to develop at their own level and reach their full potential. Excellent interaction was observed between the children, each other and the childminder.

There is an extensive range of toys and resources for children to play with, encouraging imagination and social skills. The childminder ensures children have many opportunities for physical play and regularly takes them for countryside walks or trips to the beach or to parks. Children all enjoy the extensive variety of toys and resources that the childminder has; one favourite activity with all of them being making cakes, decorating and eating them. Children were observed playing well together and supporting each other when completing jigsaws. They receive praise and encouragement from the childminder, increasing their self-confidence and helping them to feel good about themselves. Children learn to take turns and respond to others as they play with puzzles, games and books, communicating with each other confidently.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder values all children and treats them as individuals, making them feel valued, important and good about themselves. She encourages them to acknowledge and recognise differences and similarities in others, developing self-esteem as well as respect for others. Children develop a positive view of the world around them through a range of resources, activities and outings.

The childminder has experience of caring for children with special need and has a positive attitude towards working with them. She considers the needs of all children very carefully before agreeing to care for a child with a special need, ensuring she is able to give all children the care they need. The childminder adapts activities so that children can join in and be fully involved with the other children, encouraging them to feel safe, secure and part of the family group.

The children behave well because the childminder uses praise and encouragement to promote good behaviour, making them feel good about themselves. She develops positive behaviour by praising and encouraging children to share, take turns and learn to co-operate with one another. Through discussion with the children, she helps them to understand the effects their behaviour has on others. Children work and play

well with each other.

The childminder recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers and has established positive relationships with them. She has a leaflet which she gives to new parents, telling them about herself and the care she provides. A good relationship between the childminder and parents benefits the children by sharing information about the children's needs, likes and interests, thereby ensuring consistency of care. She gives parents daily feedback regarding their child.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has extensive experience in caring for children through raising her own family, working as a foster carer and working as a childminder for many years. Children enjoy their time with the childminder because she plans resources and activities well, providing stimulating challenges for them and also meeting the needs of all of the children.

The childminder shares all documentation with parents, contributing to continuity of care for the children and keeping them safe and secure. All documentation is stored appropriately in files in a cupboard, and the childminder shares these with the parents. The childminder has a clear understanding of the requirements of her registration and the inspection process, therefore keeping children safe. The needs of the range of children for whom she provides are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to obtain more toys and resources reflecting equal opportunities and to make the water feature safe.

The childminder has obtained dolls, jigsaws, books and small world figures reflecting positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. The water feature has had secure netting fitted over it so children cannot access the water.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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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):

- Must ensure fire evacuations are practised

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk