



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112426
Inspection date	22 September 2005
Inspector	Alison Large

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 1998. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged over 8 in the Locks Heath area of Southampton. All areas of the property are used for childminding except the lounge and two bedrooms and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under 5 all day and 4 children over 5 before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

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 are cared for in a warm, clean home. Children are encouraged in their hygiene routines. They gain a clear understanding of why they should wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet which promotes an awareness of good personal hygiene. Children's health is well promoted as the childminder has relevant first aid training and has implemented effective hygiene procedures to minimise the risk of infection for example using bacterial wipes to clean the table and high chair.

Children enjoy a varied range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health and physical development. The childminder recognises the benefits of daily exercise for the children and they have opportunities to develop their small and large muscles. The childminder provides a good range of outdoor interests for the children, including a climbing frame and wheeled toys. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet and are offered snacks which regularly include fruit. Children are offered regular drinks, which include water and squash, this ensures their needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and pays high attention to ensuring risks and hazards are minimised and children's safety is promoted. The childminder has all the required documents and procedures in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded. She has an understanding of child protection issues and recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm.

Children are well cared for in a bright, spacious environment. The playroom is well laid out with resources stored accessibly to allow children to move around safely. The developmental needs of the children are met by the wide range of equipment that is made available to them, which is well maintained, clean and safe. The childminder rotates the toys regularly to provide the children with a good balance of learning opportunities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder knows the minded children well and makes provision for their needs on arrival. Children settle well at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. Children are interested in a suitable range of

developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. They enjoy their play, the childminder interacts well with them and joins in their play encouraging their social skills.

The wide range of equipment and resources cater for all the children who attend the setting and the childminder discusses individual interests with the parents. The childminder recognises the value of play in a child's development and introduces a range of experiences, enabling the children to play together as well as independently. Older children are able to enjoy different activities from the younger children and which are more suited to their developmental stages, which ensures their individual needs are met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a good relationship with the childminder. She knows the minded children well, they feel valued and she is interested in what they say and do. She takes time to listen to them, which ensures they are respected as individuals. Children behave well because they know what is expected of them. The childminder manages behaviour calmly and ensures clear rules and boundaries are in place. The childminder takes the child's age and understanding into account, therefore the children's confidence and self-esteem are promoted well.

The children benefit from the childminder's good relationship with the parents; information is shared daily which means children's individual needs are met. Children with special needs are welcomed and the childminder ensures all children are able to participate fully. Children are able to access some resources to promote a positive view of the wider world which helps children develop an understanding of others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are able to move around freely and feel at home with the well organised environment. Play space is laid out to maximise the play opportunities for the children. The effective verbal discussions the childminder has with the parents means children are supported and cared for appropriately. Some documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place, stored confidentially and regularly reviewed. However some relevant documentation was unavailable at inspection which made it difficult to check children's well-being is safeguarded. 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 make a fire evacuation procedure available to parents; provide resources of positive images of children and adults; keep a record of complaints; make use of an incident record and obtain permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment. The childminder has

addressed all the recommendations and has ensured they have all been put into place, which means children's health and safety is now fully promoted.

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):

- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection

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