

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	151014
Inspection date	06 November 2007
Inspector	Heidi Wilton
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 outstanding. 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 1981. She is registered to provide care for six children and two children under eight years overnight. The childminder is currently minding four children aged under eight years and one child over eight years at various times and days.

The childminder lives with her husband in a five bedroomed detached house in a residential area of Fareham. The home is within walking distance to school, shops and parks. All areas of the house are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children gain a very good understanding of the importance of protecting themselves from germs, looking after their own bodies and eating healthy foods. The childminder talks to the children about the importance of washing their hands after going to the toilet and before eating foods. In addition, the childminder has installed a hand dryer to greatly minimise the risk of

the spread of infection when children dry their hands. Children brush their teeth after each meal and the childminder talks to them about the importance of doing so. This ensures children develop a great awareness about looking after themselves and their bodies.

Children foster a very good understanding about the whole process of growing foods and where foods come from. The childminder has an apple and a pear tree in the garden and the fruits are picked for children to enjoy for their snack or as part of their meal. They develop a great understanding of the process from beginning to end and the childminder talks to the children about what things help vegetables and fruits grow. The childminder gives children the opportunity to create their own place mats with their pictures, paintings and hand prints and then laminates these for the children to use. She uses extremely robust procedures, such as recording information about children's allergies and dietary requirements on the back of their mats to ensure she is always highly aware.

Children have an extensive range of activities and resources to promote their physical development. They have wonderful fun as they interact to familiar music and gain a high awareness of different types of music, such as pop and classical. They thoroughly enjoy playing within the outside area as they sit in the swings and climb the wooden climbing frame. Children have an amazing time on outings to local farms, where they see lots of animals, and have lots of fun developing their muscles as they play in ball pools at local amusement parks. They become very excited on walks to the beach as they collect shells and stones.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is of utmost importance to the childminder. She ensures children are extremely well protected as all doors are secured when not in use and the childminder has installed a secure video phone and alarm buzzers on the front entrance. This ensures the childminder is very aware of who the visitors are before she opens the front door and is alerted if someone has come through the front entrance. The childminder fosters an extremely high awareness of road safety when out walking with the children as she talks to the children about the green cross code and how to keep themselves safe.

The childminder gives children extensive opportunities to explore new experiences and to take acceptable risks within their environment. For example, children independently climb the wooden ramp to the climbing frame and have fun as they whiz down the slide. This gives them the opportunity to take risks but the childminder uses her skills to minimise the risk by positioning a large soft play mat at the bottom of the slide. Children of different ages play safely because the childminder demonstrates excellent forward thinking skills. For example, she uses stair gates to keep older children and younger children within designated areas. This allows older children to play with small beads and toys and younger children can play in their designated area with appropriate toys for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has a very clear understanding of the importance of practising fire drills with the children to ensure they know what to do in the event of a fire. She is registered to provide care for children overnight and has assessed the fire evacuation route to ensure a prompt exit in the event of a fire. The childminder has a long landing at the top of the stairs and she stores a torch at each end to ensure she can find her way quickly to sleeping children. The childminder again demonstrates her excellent forward thinking skills as she stores a fire evacuation box within the children's play house in the garden. This contains some nappies, blankets, bottle of

water and dummies to ensure children are cared for appropriately should they need to exit the home quickly.

The childminder has a very secure knowledge of child protection procedures and is extremely clear about where to make referrals should she have any concerns about any of the children. She shows a very comprehensive understanding of how to record signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect to ensure the welfare of children is safeguarded. The childminder shares a child protection policy with parents which details very clearly her professional responsibility to inform the relevant agencies should she have any concerns about the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children within the childminder's home are extremely happy and settled. They interact very well together, with older children showing caring attitudes towards younger children. For example, older children find younger children's comfort toys for them when they awake from a sleep. The childminder has a very good knowledge of the children and their individual development. She conducts regular and detailed observations of the children in line with the Birth to three matters framework and ensures she is planning activities to meet their individual needs. The childminder has a detailed routine of the day displayed to ensure parents are extremely well informed of what their children are doing. She successfully uses her skills to adapt the routine as necessary and to go with the flow of the children.

Parents and their children have settling in visits at the outset and are extremely welcome to stay with their child for as many sessions as they wish. The childminder gains a high level of understanding of children's starting points, individual needs, routines and home circumstances both verbally and in writing from the parents. This ensures she is fully knowledgeable about the children and can use this knowledge to ensure children have a very smooth transition from the main carer to her home.

The childminder manages the different age ranges she cares for extremely well. She shows exemplary practice as she interacts with the children appropriately for their stage and understanding of development and takes the time to listen carefully to what they say. The childminder has a very close bond with all the children and shows them great amounts of care and affection. All children have an extensive range of age and stage appropriate toys and resources both inside and out to play with. Babies and young toddlers have lots of fun exploring a variety of wonderful treasure baskets as they feel different textured materials and objects. They become very excited as they play with light-up and push-along toys and become extremely engaged as they are given the space to practice pouring skills using rice and two cups. Younger children immensely enjoy playing in the garden and giggle excitedly as they stomp across the small wooden bridge pretending that they are a goat from the story 'Three Billy Goats Gruff'.

All children have lots of opportunities to participate with creativity and music and movement. They have great fun as they make marks on sugar paper with crayons and become engrossed as they submerge their hands into paints to create hand prints. Older children become very engaged as they explore the weighing scales and have lots of fun as they predict which side of the scales will be heavier or lighter. Children after school are given the space and freedom to relax and rest as they watch their favourite television program, read books or interact on the computer. They become very excited as they create, practise and perform puppet shows to present to the younger children and the childminder. They successfully create their own ideas, such as designing tickets for the show and setting chairs up for the audience.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder has established an extremely positive environment where all children are valued as individuals and are given equal access to all toys and resources. She adapts the environment accordingly, such as putting a low level step in place next to the outside sand pit to ensure all children can reach the sand and tools. This ensures all children are included within the environment. The childminder has had lots of different experiences with children with learning disabilities and/or difficulties. She uses her skills to make detailed observations of the children and works very effectively with parents and outside agencies to ensure consistency is achieved for the children. The childminder is very proactive and obtains any necessary training to assist her with caring for children with additional needs.

All children's needs are extremely well met as the childminder demonstrates a very good understanding of each child's individual needs. Children have a wonderful time as they dress up in different outfits, such as saris and fire fighter uniforms. This fosters a high awareness of other cultures and positive gender roles. Children gain a very good understanding of different cultures and positive gender roles as they are given lots of opportunities to look at pictures and puzzles within their everyday play.

Children gain a very clear understanding of what behaviour is expected as the childminder uses consistent and positive methods to manage their behaviour. She equips older children with the tools to successfully manage their own behaviour by giving them a voice and asks them what rules they think should be used within the environment.

Parents gain very clear and detailed information about the provision from the outset. The childminder meets with the parents to show them her extremely detailed policies and procedures and ensures parents sign to say they have read and understood them. She gives extremely clear verbal feedback to parents at the beginning and end of each day and in addition completes comprehensive written information in each child's daily diaries. This gives parents opportunities to refer to this information when they are at home. Parents gain very regular newsletters detailing information and topics the children are doing and the childminder displays information and leaflets on the parents' notice board. This ensures parents are very well informed. The childminder completes detailed observations of the children in line with the Birth to three matters framework and parents can access these at anytime, which enables them to see their child's development and learning. In addition, the childminder offers consultations with the parents and makes herself available to conduct these at the parents' home if this is more convenient.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder manages the different age ranges of children she minds very well. She uses different levels of interaction depending upon the age of the child she is with and ensures all the children have access to an extensive range of age and stage appropriate activities. They move seamlessly between the different activities that are on offer both within the inside and outside environments which ensures they are very occupied and stimulated. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder is very enthusiastic with the children and extremely dedicated to her role as a childminder. She is always very keen to attend further training to enhance and develop her

expertise and knowledge. She has highly comprehensive policies and procedures and very effectively shares these with parents to ensure they are fully knowledgeable about her provision. The childminder has an excellent comprehension of ensuring all adults living or working within the premises are vetted and suitable to be around the children. In addition, to ensure she is aware of what visitors are within the home, the childminder has devised a visitors book to record who has been in the environment at the same time as the children. The childminder demonstrates exemplary practice and shows clear dedication to ensuring children are offered riveting and stimulating experiences.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to address one recommendation for care. She was asked to devise procedures for obtaining parental consent with regard to the practice of taking photographs of the minded children and to ensure parents have an understanding of what use is made of these photographs. The childminder now has written parental permission to take photographs of the children with an explanation of what the photographs will be used for. This ensures children are kept safe and parents are well informed.

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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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