

Inspection report for early years provision

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Unique Reference Number | 111634 |
| Inspection date | 14 December 2007 |
| Inspector | Lynne Elizabeth Lewington |
| 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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and three children in a four bedroom semi-detached house in Farnborough, Hampshire. The property is close to local schools and shops.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight at any one time. There are currently three children on roll. Children have access to the whole of the downstairs of the house and the garden. The family have a dog, a cat and chickens as family pets.

The childminder attends local children's activities and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The clean and fresh environment provides a healthy and pleasant place for the children's care. Appropriate hygiene measures are taken to prevent the spread of germs. For example, children have easy access to soap, water and their own individual clean towels and the childminder carries hand cleaning gel on outings to ensure children can clean their hands. Whilst parents have supplied consent for emergency medical advice and treatment, information is not recorded relating to children's health or allergies. A well stocked first aid box is available however the childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate and no record is maintained of injuries. This does not safeguard children's interests sufficiently.

Children enjoy their food which is provided by their parents and stored appropriately to ensure it remains fresh. Their diet is supplemented by snacks provided by the childminder of fruit and fruit juices. Children have easy access to drinks throughout their play to prevent dehydration. They sit on the sofa to eat lunch and snacks carefully balancing their plates on their laps.

Children develop their physical skills through their play opportunities. They move freely around the lounge negotiating carefully round the furniture, stretching and playing on the floor with age appropriate toys. This enables them to develop their large movements and co-ordination well. They use puzzles, pencils, and put on dressing up clothes developing their fine co-ordination and skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children play in a well maintained and attractive setting where they can access all the facilities on the ground level. The recently altered garden provides an attractive outdoor play space where good care has been taken to manage any risks. A suitable range of toys and equipment are available for the children's use. Toys and equipment are checked as they are used to ensure that they remain suitable for use.

Children are supervised closely by the childminder to ensure their safety. They learn to consider their safety as they play and the childminder reminds them of safe behaviour. They talk about road safety on outings developing their awareness of how to keep themselves safe. Smoke detectors are in place and an evacuation plan has been considered. Safety gates prevent the children's access to restricted areas of the property such as the kitchen. However, the children must go through the kitchen to the toilet and unsecured cupboards storing chemicals present a potential risk to young children.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's knowledge and awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the action she would take if she was concerned.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident in the child minder's care. They make choices in their play and ask for favourite items they cannot find. Dressing up clothes encourage their communication as they act out events and experiences. They show developing skills as they complete puzzles

and undertake simple games with the help of the childminder. Social skills develop through undertaking activities in the local community where they meet other children and adults. They visit toddler groups, the park and soft play areas widening their experiences and abilities to mix with other children.

The childminder shows awareness of the children's likes and dislikes. She ensures they have a variety of play experiences both familiar and new by alternating the toys regularly. Children relate to her well sitting close and enjoying a quiet cuddle on the sofa. She listens and responds to the children well, sometimes extending their play by making suggestions, for example, suggesting they make a bus with the chairs. The children found a steering wheel and helped to arrange the chairs, then acted out their respective roles on the bus, saying where they were going and collecting fares.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play with toys which reflect a diverse society; they go on outings in the local community and meet many people developing their awareness of the wider world and social skills. Toys and resources reflecting our diverse society develop children's awareness of others. The childminder demonstrates a suitable awareness of how she would encourage children's development and work with parents to meet any individual additional needs if required. However records of children's individual needs are not currently maintained.

Children learn to consider others as they play and are encouraged to use good manners. The childminder sets a good example to the children as she calmly manages their behaviour, encouraging them to share and take turns. Positive relationships develop with parents through daily verbal communication, including information about the children's activities and what they have eaten. However, a complaints policy is not available to inform parents of how problems can be resolved and no written information about the service offered is available.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children have access to an attractive play environment where space is used well for their enjoyment and benefit. They have access to good quality toys and resources and the attention of a caring childminder. However, children's health and safety is insufficiently safeguarded as the childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate and additional health and safety measures are required to promote the children's safety.

Basic information is maintained regarding the children to ensure parents can be contacted if required, and an attendance record is maintained. However, the childminder lacks awareness of the regulatory requirements of her registration. For example, insufficient records of accidents and medication are maintained to promote children's welfare effectively and the certificate of registration is not displayed clearly to reassure parents and meet regulatory requirements. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were made to improve the safety precautions and review and update documentation. A fire blanket is now in place however insufficient measures are taken to manage other risks. For example the chemicals in the kitchen cupboards are not

secure. Whilst basic information is maintained about the children, documentation is not available regarding making complaints and accidents and medication records have not been maintained.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and ensure appropriate documentation is maintained.
- assess the risks to children in relation to the chemicals in kitchen cupboards and take action to minimise these risks

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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