

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111715
Inspection date	22 November 2007
Inspector	Marie Thompson
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 2000. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and 11 years old in Yateley, Hampshire. The whole of the downstairs of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

There are currently five children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

The family do not have any 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 enjoy a good range of activities which contribute to their good health and involve movement, exercise and fresh air. Children go for regular walks to the park and use the garden where there is a range of equipment to promote their physical well-being. They are able to use

the large climbing frame and slide in the garden. There is also a smaller trampoline for the younger children, lots of ride on toys for them to zoom around on and a sand pit which is in the enticing shape of a small boat. The children enjoy going to the park across the road or at the Green. The childminder also takes them to Frinley Lodge Park which has a lake that they can throw sticks into and a train ride. During the summer, the park had a teddy bears picnic and the children took their teddies along and enjoyed a free ride on the train. The childminder had lots of fun going round and round on the train with the children and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. The children like going to Sandhurst Park too. At this park there is a huge sandpit and a large wooden climbing frame. The children have lots of very good opportunities to develop their fine motor skills because the childminder provides lots of toys activities which promote them. This includes shape sorters, puzzles, games and lots of art and crafts. All of these help to increase the children's manipulative skills, dexterity and concentration.

The childminder has attended training on 'Birth to three - guide to good practice' and it is evident through her practice that she implements this in her everyday routines and is very intuitive of this age group. This means that the children have a knowledgeable practitioner who provides appropriate challenges and is aware of their ages and stages of development.

The childminder provides meals for some of the children which consist of sandwiches, fruit and yoghurt and a hot meal in the evening such as chicken and rice or fish and pasta. The children's dietary needs are well catered for and the childminder gathers all relevant and important information about the children's allergies. She also takes into account the children's likes and dislikes and parents' wishes are respected. Some parents provide their children's meals and the childminder makes sure that the food is stored appropriately to ensure it is kept fresh. The children have fruit at snack times and drinks are available at any time. The childminder is very aware that the children need to have sufficient to drink in the hot weather and after running around. Snacks and meals are a social occasion at the childminder's house. She sits with the children and they talk about the day and catch up on everyone's news. The children are encouraged to sit properly at the table, use their knife and fork and to help clear away the plates when they have finished.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They understand they must wash their hands after going to the toilet, after messy play and before and after food. Children are protected from infection by the childminder's awareness of maintaining good hygiene standards in the home. She makes sure the house is thoroughly cleaned on a Friday when she is not working and routinely cleans the toilets, changes the towels and hovers every evening. The children use the downstairs toilet and they are provided with a soap dispenser, a small basket with paper towels in to dry their hands and wet wipes to help with their personal care. The childminder takes great care to make sure the younger children have their hands and noses wiped regularly so that they are clean and comfortable. When she is changing their nappies she wears gloves and double bags the nappies to dispose of them in the outside bin. The childminder talks to the children whilst she is changing their nappy and constantly reassures them. However she does not wipe each individual mat after each change which does not completely prevent the spread of germs.

The childminder has completed a first aid course and has a well stocked first aid kit so she is able to treat the children appropriately if they hurt themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very safe and secure environment. They are able to move freely around the house and garden because potential hazards have been minimised by the use of safety equipment and the childminder's very good supervision. Children are protected from fire in the home as the childminder has put precautions in place such as smoke detectors and a fire blanket. The childminder and the children have also practised how they will get out of the house quickly and safely in the event of a fire. Children are learning about their own safety through routine discussions with the childminder, who reminds them of potential dangers. She encourages them to follow the house rules and to take care crossing the roads when they are out which helps to keep all the children safe.

Children's welfare is protected by the childminder's awareness and understanding of her role and responsibilities in keeping the children safe from harm or abuse. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and the procedure to follow if there are any concerns. She has supporting documents in place which include the HM Government booklet, 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused' as well as her own child protection policy.

Children have good space to play in a clean and well organised home environment. Children can access resources independently as these are well organised in small boxes laid out on the floor and the brightly coloured boxes in the storage unit. The childminder regularly wipes and sorts out the boxes and toys to make sure they are clean and there are no broken or damaged toys that could hurt a child. All resources are of very good quality and age appropriate for the children attending. Children are interested in the toys provided, such as puzzles, soft toys, books, construction and role play.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play co-operatively and are clearly becoming good friends and toys are eagerly shared. Together they put the little people in the play bus and try on different dressing up outfits. The childminder is thrilled when the children put on the fairy outfit and witches hat and she tells them how beautiful they look. Encouragement is freely given, enabling children to play with toys, participate in activities of their choice, and learn at their own pace. The childminder encourages the children to explore the toys and is not at all phased by the children getting lots of toys out all at once and going from one to the other and back again. This is a very important part of their learning and development and the childminder acknowledges and encourages this. The children also learn to become independent and increase their self-esteem through making choices in a positive environment. There are lots of opportunities for the children to explore a range of activities which encourage creativity and imagination. The childminder loves doing art and crafts and this is imparted to the children. She has various boxes full of goodies to make the art and crafts activities exciting. Examples of the children's work showing that the children always have a go at writing their name are displayed around the kitchen. There are some lovely chalk and sticking pictures. During a trip to Finklydown farm the children were able to hold the rabbits, mice and chicks, which was great fun and helped them to learn about caring for animals and being gentle when they hold them.

The children particularly enjoy making and icing cakes and biscuits and making their own sandwiches and toast. This can be quite a messy activity but the childminder is more than happy for the children to experiment with spreading different toppings and fillings. They have grown

cross but were not keen to put it into their sandwiches so they watched how it grew instead. The range of activities, outings and quiet times ensure that the children have a good mix of different opportunities. The older children are able to sit in the lounge independently of the younger children to do some activities which allows them additional space to concentrate or sometimes to just relax without being disturbed after a long day at school or pre-school.

The childminder has a lovely manner with the children; she is calm and patient with them. Conversations, hugs, endearments and smiles are frequent, kind, warm and genuine. Children are developing a healthy self-esteem and confidence, enjoy their play, are engaged in their activities, take great pride in their efforts and achievements and they are beginning to form secure friendships and attachments to others. Children's pleasure in their activities is facilitated by the childminder's knowledge and understanding of development and play, while her care and kindness ensure they feel valued and accepted without reservation.

Through her current training the childminder is accessing some different activities and she is always happy to experiment with new play ideas which will benefit the children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents and children's individual needs are met by finding out their likes and dislikes before they attend the setting. The children are made to feel very welcome and at home in the comfortable environment. The childminder's policies and procedures are shared with parents, and a copy is made available for parents to keep for their own records. This ensures parents are kept informed and are fully aware of all aspects of the service that the childminder provides. Parents are also kept informed of their child's daily activities through verbal feedback when they collect the children at the end of the day. The parents are clearly happy with the care their children receive and this is evident from the many 'thank you' cards and positive comments on the questionnaires the parents have given the childminder over the years.

Children develop a good awareness of social diversity as they play with resources such as puzzles, small world people and books which include positive images of people of different needs and people from different social backgrounds. Children enjoy playing with the puppets and dressing up clothes which include a Sari, a policeman's outfit and a ballet dress. The childminder is keen to ensure that all children of all ages and gender are able to access the toys, resources and activities she offers. The children have learnt about some festivals and cultures such as Easter and Hanukkah. During Diwali they made Diva candles and for Christmas they will be making cards and calendars. The children learn about the local community through trips to the local library and St. Peter's church where they go to the toddler groups. Sometimes they go with the childminder to the local supermarket to buy some bread and milk. These are very good opportunities for the children to develop their social interaction skills.

The childminder is aware that some children develop learning difficulties and disabilities, and knows to support these by sharing information with parents and providing suitable activities.

Children's behaviour is positively promoted through the childminder routinely praising and encouraging their efforts. She responds with kindness, patience and skill and as a result children learn to take turns and to accept limits. The childminder uses effective and appropriate strategies to manage any inappropriate behaviour. She has a quiet tone and uses direct eye contact with the children to ensure they are able to learn right from wrong in a positive way. Good manners

are effectively encouraged to encourage the children to be polite and considerate. The childminder is a very good role model and consequently the children learn by example. Frequent praise raises their self-confidence and this approach ensures children feel secure and develop empathy for others.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder has kept herself informed and enhanced her skills by attending relevant course such as, 'Birth to three - guide to good practice' and the 'Introduction to childminding Practice'. She is currently studying for her diploma in home based childcare and holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder is very knowledgeable about many aspects of childcare and keeps up to date with relevant publications such as the 'Who minds' magazine. The childminder organises her day exceptionally well to ensure all the children's needs are met. This contributes to the consolidation of her practice.

The children feel at home and at ease with the well-organised and comfortable environment. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning whilst safely exploring their personal boundaries. The childminder effectively uses her policies and procedures to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. Her policies and procedures are thoughtfully written, detailed and extremely well organised. The childminder has all documentation available, which includes a daily record of the children's attendance. All relevant and mandatory documentation is in place and well maintained to an excellent standard.

By working in partnership with the parents, the childminder ensures that she meets the children's individual needs. Discussions take place daily with the parents to exchange information and share achievements and concerns. The regular informal discussion ensures continuity of care for the children. Children receive excellent adult support to help them feel secure and confident to develop and expand their learning through play. 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 review and update documentation. She was asked to ensure the attendance register is regularly signed by her and the parents, obtain written consent for photographs to be taken and to keep a record of existing injuries.

The childminder has updated and reviewed all documentation. The attendance register is regularly signed by the parents and the childminder; written permission has been obtained for photographs and all existing injuries are recorded and signed by the parents.

These measures contribute to ensuring children's continued health, safety and wellbeing.

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):

- further develop hygiene practices when changing children's nappies

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