

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112737
Inspection date	29 February 2008
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 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 1992. She lives with her partner and three children in a house in Farnborough, Hampshire. The whole house is used for childminding although children under five play downstairs, unless sleeping in a travel cot upstairs. There is a large fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years. There are currently six children on roll. Occasionally she looks after children over eight years. The childminder collects children from a variety of local schools. She attends local parent and toddler groups, and childminder meetings. The family have a pet rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy excellent opportunities to develop an awareness of a healthy lifestyle through the excellent care which promotes their physical, emotional, and social wellbeing. Children clearly know the healthy routines which help to prevent the spread of germs. For example, they

wash their hands independently under the unobtrusive supervision of the childminder and dry their hands on separate clean flannels each time. Clear information provided by parents ensures the childminder understands children's individual needs and meets them appropriately. In addition, good communication ensures that parents are kept well informed of any symptoms, accidents or injuries that may occur in order that they can manage them appropriately.

Children enjoy the social occasion of meal and snack times whilst they eat excellent quality nutritious food. They sit to the table on booster seats and the childminder sits with them for snacks and meals enabling the occasion to be relaxed and enjoyable. They help to prepare their food, using children's safety knives. With supervision they cut the tops of their strawberries. Fruit, vegetables, fish and meat are included in the menu and occasional small biscuits, enabling the children to enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods. Children independently access their drinks throughout their play ensuring they do not become dehydrated.

Children's positive wellbeing is encouraged enthusiastically. They have opportunities to develop confidence in their bodies as they play in the garden with equipment which encourages their large and small movements. The outdoor opportunities also increase their feeling of wellbeing. Indoors as they play with the dry rice, they use cups, jugs and bottles to pour and fill containers, controlling their movements with increasing skill.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children have access to a very well maintained and spacious play environment, both indoors and out. They use the whole of the ground floor for various activities throughout the day. An excellent selection of good quality toys and resources are easily available for the children's use enabling them to make choices in their play. Toys are checked regularly for their suitability and appropriate care is taken to ensure they meet the age and stage of development of the child.

Excellent measures are in place to promote the children's safety and encourage their awareness of safe behaviour. The premises and activities are informally risk assessed by the provider and appropriate measures taken to ensure they are safe. Smoke detectors are checked regularly and emergency evacuations practised and discussed ensuring that in the event of an emergency the premises could be evacuated swiftly. Sensible rules encourage children's awareness of safety in the garden area, for example in the use of the swings or trampoline. The childminder supervises closely and talks to the children about danger to help them to understand. Children undertake simple activities which help them to understand how they can contribute to their own and the safety of others. For example, they help to pick up their toys from the floor to prevent tripping; they learn to walk, look and listen as they cross roads and not to climb on furniture.

Children's wellbeing is further safeguarded by the childminder's excellent awareness of child protection issues. She indicates a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the action she would take if she was concerned. A clear child protection policy is available including details of the agency to be contacted regarding child protection concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from excellent opportunities to enjoy and achieve in the childminder's care. They undertake a wide range of interesting activities each day which provides them with

opportunities to develop their knowledge of the world around them, language skills, problem solving and social skills. The childminder demonstrates an excellent insight into developmental needs and the importance and value of encouraging children's individual interests in their play opportunities. Children have access to many items to support their role play. For example, a shop, dressing up clothes, bags and shoes, dolls and doll equipment enable them to act out their experiences. Children benefit socially from opportunities to meet other adults and children on outings in the community and at toddler groups.

Children play outside each day as part of their daily routine. This provides an excellent opportunity to look at and talk about the weather, and what clothes they need to wear. They enjoy stories from the comfort and security of the childminders lap. They predict and use the pictures to talk about what is happening in the story. As they play with dry rice in a large container on the floor, they demonstrate increasing dexterity and understanding. They use a variety of vessels, work co-operatively together sharing and taking turns, and demonstrate developing language and mathematical understanding as they fill and empty the various sized bottles and cups.

The childminder provides a familiar routine each day which helps the children to feel secure and confident in her care. She recognises the need to provide the children with a variety of stimulating experiences and opportunities to be quiet, rest and reflect on their activity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Through the childminder's efforts children experience excellent opportunities to develop and make a positive contribution to society. Excellent relationships develop with parents as the childminder makes them and their child feel welcome. Good quality information is recorded and shared enabling parents to understand what their child has experienced each day. Photographs support the children's records and clearly show the children's enjoyment in their activities. Good communication with parents enables the childminder to understand each child's individual needs and requirements.

The childminder encourages an inclusive environment where all children are welcome. Through consideration of individual need and activities experiences are adapted to meet each child's requirements. They learn about their own and other cultures, traditional events and peoples feelings and needs enabling understanding and respect for others to develop. Books, resources and outings in the local community positively support children's play and learning in this area.

Children have excellent opportunities to develop an awareness of positive behaviour. Consistent and realistic boundaries help them to learn about wrong and right, and about how their behaviour may affect others. A clear behaviour policy supports the childminders practice and clearly indicates the importance of working together to promote positive behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder provides an excellent service to the families she serves. The children are the focus of her practice and through her excellent partnerships with their parents she ensures they have a wealth of fun experiences in a warm and caring environment where excellent care is taken to meet their needs.

The childminder demonstrates a clear awareness of the requirements of her registration and ensures that they are met at all times. She undertakes training opportunities to ensure that she refreshes her knowledge and keeps up-to-date with practice issues. Through her effective practice children have excellent opportunities to develop healthily, safely, enjoy and achieve in what they do and begin to understand and make a positive contribution to society. She is extremely well organised ensuring her documentation is maintained appropriately and in a confidential manner. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were made. The first was to improve equal opportunities resources and the second to keep detailed records of significant issues and share these with parents. The childminder has improved both aspects of her service for the benefit of the children in her care. Children now have access to a range of toys and equipment, and she is very conscious of adapting her activities to enable them to participate. Detailed records are maintained and these are always shared with parents.

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 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:

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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