

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113013
Inspection date	05 December 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 1995. She lives with her three adult children, one of whom is her assistant, in Fleet, Hampshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

There are currently nine children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

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.

The childminder follows the children's own routines ensuring continuity of care for the children. She has a good understanding of each child's individual needs, which promotes their wellbeing. The children are learning some good personal hygiene skills, as the childminder follows good

hygiene practices. They are able to use the downstairs toilet which has recently been refurbished. It has a small sink and a step is provided to enable them to reach it and for the younger children the childminder has potties available. However, prior to snack time they all wash their hands at the kitchen sink under the supervision of the childminder and they all use the same towel to dry their hands. This does not positively control the spread of germs.

Parents requests with regard to their children's dietary needs are adhered to and these are fully discussed when a new minding agreement begins. The childminder knows the children's health needs and all relevant documentation is in place, to ensure each child's individual needs are met. The childminder has some good procedures in place to prevent the spread of infection and holds a current first aid certificate, which also contributes to keeping the children healthy. The parents provide the children's packed lunches and the childminder makes sure they are stored appropriately. The children sit at the main kitchen table to eat their lunch and are encouraged to have good table manners and to sit properly whilst they are eating. For snack times they are able to sit at the little brightly coloured table and chairs in the conservatory. Their non-spill beakers are also placed on this table throughout the day so that they can help themselves to a drink if they are thirsty.

Children have opportunities for physical play both indoors and outdoors which help them develop their skills. The childminder takes them to places such as the local park, or for walks through the woods, where they have further opportunities for this. The children walk to and from school each day which means they get regular fresh air. There are plenty of toys and resources in the house which develop their fine motor skills such as puzzles, pop-up toys, construction, potato printing, play dough and drawing. They have fun and get lots of exercise dancing and jumping to the Christmas songs and music on the tapes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move around the rooms safely and freely. They use the space appropriately and are aware of the areas where they can and cannot play. Children are safe as the childminder is very proactive in spotting any potential hazards and takes prompt action to minimise risks. This is done through regular ongoing risk assessments inside and outside of the setting. A fire evacuation procedure has been discussed with the children and the parents, however, the childminder and the children have not practised fire drills to ensure they are kept safe and know what to do in an emergency.

The children access resources for themselves from toys in boxes, drawer units and from the lower cupboards in the conservatory which is used as a playroom. Some items are stored in stacking boxes in the cupboard under the stairs but the children know the contents and the childminder lifts these down for the children on request. The children direct their own play and the childminder monitors the selection of resources to ensure that they are suitable and safe for the children's age and stage of development.

Children learn about how to be safe on outings and when walking to the park, through the childminder talking to them about road safety and the importance of looking both ways when they cross the road. Children hold hands with each other and the childminder, ride in the buggy or sometimes the childminder uses some reins to ensure they are all kept safe.

The childminder promotes the children's welfare through a very good working knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. She has supporting documents in place such as the NSPCC safeguarding children booklet as well as her own policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are confident and happy and have good relationships with the childminder because many of them have been cared for by her since they were babies and are now 'part of the family'. Conversations, smiles and hugs are frequent, kind and warm between the childminder and the children. They decide which activities they would like to do and direct their own play, supported by the childminder and select toys and resources independently. The children choose to take part in planned activities such as making Christmas cards, painting and other creative sessions. For example, Danish Heart baskets, yellow ducks out of paper plates, Valentines Day hearts, and Mother's Day and Fathers Day cards. The children designed a football shirt as part of football day and had great fun learning about flags, ships and treasure as part a pirates' day. When the weather is bad outside or after a long day, the children can sit quietly and colour pictures of their favourite characters including, Thomas the tank engine, the Tweenies, Postman Pat, Boo, The Fimbles, Bob the Builder and for the older children, the Winx characters, join the dots, word searches and matching pairs. They enjoy outside play and outings to the park which helps them to develop their physical and social skills.

During the summer the children sometimes go swimming at the local pool or for a walk along the canal. The children enjoy playing in the house with the tea set, building towers with the Duplo or making shapes with the Octons. In the garden children have a good time bouncing on the trampoline, blowing bubbles or climbing in and out of large empty cardboard boxes. The children have the opportunity to take part in lots of first hand learning experiences as they go to the supermarket with the childminder or into town on the bus to look around the shops and have a drink in a café. The childminder loves doing cooking activities on a Friday morning with the children and they have made lots of scrumptious things including, cookies and a chocolate hedgehog cake. A popular activity is pizza making when the children are able to choose from variety of toppings to add to their pizza and they really enjoy consuming their efforts.

Children are encouraged and their efforts are praised by the childminder, which promotes their self esteem and allows them to develop their self-confidence. Children's independence is encouraged and the childminder offers them support when required. The childminder has additional toys and resources which are regularly rotated to keep children interested and stimulated.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that the children have access to a range of age and stage appropriate resources. She ensures these promote equality of opportunity and allow for children's individual development, ability and interests. The children had great fun learning to be cheerleaders and making popcorn and statue of liberty headdresses as part of America day. The children have also learnt about Canada and Italy and after Christmas they will be looking at China. Through her work and experience with the Guide Association the childminder has a good knowledge of the underpinning values of making sure children appreciate the world they live in. She is able

to address any issues or questions that arise sensitively and at a level that is appropriate for their age and level of understanding. For each of the children's birthdays the childminder organises a party with crispy cakes and party games such as pass the parcel and the smarty game.

The childminder knows the children's individual needs and discusses issues with the parents to ensure their consistency of care. The childminder knows the routes of referral if she has concerns about a child in her care. The childminder is very experienced at caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She knows that in order to meet all the children's needs there must be extensive liaison with the parents and associated professionals.

Children's good behaviour is promoted by the childminder who values the children and encourages behaviour according to their stage of development. Children are aware of the basic house rules, which include, taking off their coats and shoes when they come in and putting them tidy and not throwing things in the living room. The childminder reinforces these through gentle reminders to help children learn right from wrong. The children behave very well and play co-operatively together. They are clearly good friends and happy to be here.

The childminder has a good partnership with the parents. She exchanges information through daily discussions and uses appropriate documentation which she shares with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has thought through the available space and has organised the areas well, with the children able to access their own toys easily. She has all the relevant documentation in place to ensure she is able to meet the individual needs of the children in her care. To ensure that children experience as many activities and opportunities as possible in their day, the childminder ensures her time is planned well. The day includes regular snacks and meals, physical play, creative play as well as quiet time where children read books or play with puzzles. The childminder plans activities in advance. This ensures that resources are always available, and that children have opportunities to develop new experiences and skills daily. The childminder also appreciates and values opportunities to be spontaneous.

The childminder has some strong policies and procedures that work in practise to promote children's welfare. These along with other documentation are effectively organised to ensure they are kept secure and that confidentiality is maintained at all times. She has attended a childminder registration and first aid course and she is proficient at signing because she has been on a course to learn Makaton sign language. The childminder maintains the correct ratios, helping to protect the children and ensure they are fully supervised and receive a very good level of support at all times. 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 complete a first aid course, which includes training in first aid for infants and young children, review her resources to include positive images of diversity of the wider world we live in and to review and update documentation.

The childminder has completed a paediatric first aid course, she has reviewed and increased her resources to include positive images of diversity of the wider world we live in and she has reviewed and updated all documentation.

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):

- improve hygiene practices prior to snack time
- develop fire safety procedures

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