

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	155571
Inspection date	29 November 2007
Inspector	Christine Clint
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 2001. She lives in Rudgwick, West Sussex with her two children who both attend school. The whole house, except the main bedroom is used for childminding and there are enclosed front and rear gardens for outside play. The family have pet rabbits and guinea pigs.

The childminder is currently caring for 14 children during the week; older children are cared for after school only. The childminder has completed the Extending Childminding Practice course which is a National Vocational Qualification at level three. She also holds a current certificate in first aid training. The childminder regularly walks to the local school and the pre-school to take and collect children and she attends a parent and toddler group in the village.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised family home, with all requirements in place for maintaining their hygiene. The childminder organises her time to ensure that routine cleaning

of the home takes place. Children have individual flannels of different colours in the bathroom and the towels are changed daily. Children learn to wash their hands before meals and spontaneously ask to do this when they come in from pre-school. The childminder encourages children to be independent and use the bathroom on the first floor; she manages their needs according to their age and stage of development and sensibly introduces potty training routines on the ground floor. There are hygienic routines in place for all nappy changing and the childminder uses wipes to ensure that younger children have clean hands to eat lunch. Children sleep in a travel cot or in their buggies and the childminder likes them to have fresh air. She wraps them warmly and ensures that they remain under the sheltered area close to the house. If different children use the travel cot, they always have individual bedding.

Children's health is well maintained because the childminder has a first aid kit available and has up to date training in first aid. She has permission from each parent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. Children's accidents are clearly recorded and parents have signed each entry. There are also records of any medication that has been administered, although the childminder has not always obtained prior written permission from parents. There is clear information for parents about the attendance of children who are unwell.

Children enjoy seeing the rabbits and guinea pigs that the childminder cares for because the hutches are stored on top of each other. The animals also use runs in the garden during the summer. Children cannot immediately access the rabbits or guinea pigs and the childminder supervises them.

Children are eager to have lunch when they return from pre-school and they sit together at the table with the childminder. They often have cooked meals at the end of the day with the family and the childminder ensures that these meals are nutritious and healthy. Children are encouraged to eat fresh vegetables at every meal and they can only have biscuits if they have eaten everything else. Children are never forced to eat but encouraged to eat the healthy items first. Smaller children have light lunches and finger food, they have frequent drinks and water is always available. Children's individual needs are fully considered and the childminder has experience of planning for children with allergies and dietary requirements, she is clearly aware of keeping records to support children's individual needs.

Children have many opportunities for playing football in the front garden where there is a large lawn and football goals. Older children ride scooters and learn to skip; they use the large trampoline in the rear garden. There are ample outdoor play items and the childminder also takes children to the park. She belongs to a club for smaller children which provides a soft play area, a sensory room for babies and a craft room. Children regularly use this equipment and increase their physical abilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure in the family home because the front door has a high bolt and the rear of the premises is enclosed. Small children play on the ground floor of the home only and older children can use the upstairs rooms when invited. The safety of smaller children within the home has been prioritised because the childminder has cleverly designed two internal doors to be split, enabling her to lock the lower half. This prevents children accessing the stairs or the kitchen if required and the childminder can still see and hear children. Children play safely in the front garden and the childminder has sensibly assessed the risk of children crawling under the front gates, she has added fencing wire to prevent this and ensure their safety. The

rear garden is fully secure and smaller children are always supervised when playing outside, although they do not use the rear garden in the winter months because of the hazards from wet weather.

Children have a good range of suitable toys available and the childminder encourages them to choose, they can play with any resources if they are age appropriate. Older children have games stored within reach and the childminder frequently rotates toys for younger children from the equipment she has stored.

Children's safety is fully prioritised because the childminder has identified hazards and recorded risks, she has assessed these and the records show how they are managed. These include a thermostat fitted to all hot water outlets to prevent scalding and a soft close toilet seat to prevent children's fingers from being trapped. There are written procedures in place for lost or uncollected/abandoned children and the childminder is clearly aware of who to notify. All fire equipment is in place and a fire plan of the home and a written fire drill are also recorded. A large fireguard prevents access to the log burning stove, although this is not in use. There are three lithium battery smoke alarms in situ. Children have practised fire drills and evacuated from different rooms of the home to ensure that they know how to exit; the childminder has organised several local places of optimum safety. Children are transported by car and all required documentation is contained in the portfolio.

Children's welfare is fully considered and the childminder has a strong understanding of child protection. She has attended training several times connected with her increased levels of childcare training. The childminder has previously recorded injuries that children have arrived with, she is also aware of recording any changes in patterns of behaviour. She is fully aware of the processes to be followed and parents are provided with clear information to explain her duty to respond to children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and have well established relationships with the childminder, they are very used to the childminder's family and the regular children who attend after school. They play on the floor with tractors and the diggers, they push and move the vehicles and listen to the sounds they make. They eagerly push buggies with dolls in and want to stay in the play house in the garden, because they find interesting items inside and the childminder gently coaxes them back inside as the garden is too wet and slippery for toddlers to manage. Children follow regular routines to maintain their social and emotional development, they attend local groups with the childminder and meet other toddlers; they are used to the daily routines and the school delivery and collection times. Children happily engage with the childminder because they need help to set up the train. Younger children who do not fully have speech, use voice intonation to ask for help and clearly understand what the childminder says. She shows children how to join the carriages with the magnets.

Children's activities are being fully recorded by the childminder and photographs show that children have enjoyed a good variety of recent summer events; blowing bubbles in the paddling pool, dressing up, playing hide and seek, cooking with large bowls each and wooden spoons. After school children are currently eager to learn how to knit and to practise sewing tapestry. They regularly play games of battle ships and board games with questions; they also like to watch television. The childminder organises and plans the care of older children in the holidays

because she is aware that they like to know what is happening; the activities often depend on the weather and change at times.

The childminder shows a strong awareness of meeting the future requirements of the Foundation Stage curriculum because she has organised plans for play. These vary during the morning and afternoon and show the resources needed. The activities are linked with an intended learning outcome, with space to record reflective comments for future play and learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy because the childminder has organised the child care with parents and she has developed a close working relationship. Almost all written permission is in place from parents and contracts and record forms are held. The childminder has effectively organised her own parent questionnaire with well planned questions to cover the five outcomes for children; parents have provided a very positive response. There is information displayed for parents and the childminder has a clear complaints procedure which informs parents about contacting Ofsted.

Children have frequent praise for managing on their own, especially when they go upstairs to the bathroom and show that they remember about washing hands. They are encouraged to say please and thank you and to take turns and share. The childminder encourages children to understand how to behave towards each other, she uses explanation and withdraws children from the situation; she is 'firm and fair' and concentrates on 'getting things right'. The childminder is also happy to admit if she makes a mistake and in this way children understand that it is acceptable to admit to mistakes.

Children have opportunities to play with dolls of different nationalities and of both genders. They use cooking utensils and try food from other cultures. They have made paper dragons for Chinese new year and they are learning about festivals from around the world. Children meet others in the community and learn to play with a variety of different aged children during their daily care. The childminder shows substantial experience and knowledge in caring for children with learning difficulties because she has previously adapted her routines to ensure that children can manage equally and that their individual needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has fully prepared and organised a portfolio to include all aspects of her child care. She provides a wide range of information for parents, which includes examples of how children can develop through planned activities and the use of suitable play resources for their age and stage of development. The childminder is very suitably qualified for child care and has progressed through the levels of childminding qualifications; she also has a current certificate in first aid training.

The registration certificate is displayed in the entrance hall for parents with additional information. The family home has been adapted to ensure that small children are safe and the gardens are secure with ample opportunities for play. The childminder has arranged the conditions of registration to enable her to meet the needs of parents for after school care. There is an up to date register which shows the planned and actual times of children's attendance. Children have dedicated care because the childminder understands the requirements

of her registration and she supervises children 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 make sure that information given to parents about child protection is up to date. The childminder has a clear policy to explain to parents her duty to respond to any concerns; she has produced a summary sheet to show parents how child protection referrals are managed to ensure that children are safeguarded.

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:

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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):

- ensure that written parental permission is always in place before any medication is administered.

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