

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	401867
Inspection date	08 April 2008
Inspector	Nigel Lindsay Smith
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 1986. She lives with her husband and one adult child in Ninfield, near Battle, Sussex. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children, both of whom attend on a part-time basis. There were no minded children present at inspection. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends a toddler group and takes children on walks locally.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is at risk as the childminder is not appropriately qualified in first aid. As a result, she does not possess up to date knowledge and skills of how to deal with accidents that occur to children in her care.

The childminder has systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies. She describes how children would learn about their personal hygiene through their normal daily routines for example washing their hands. The childminder has arrangements in place to obtain written consent from parents for her to administer first aid, but this does not cover seeking advice in the event of a medical emergency to ensure that children receive suitable care in the event of a serious accident.

The childminder has appropriate systems in place to seek parental permission and to record when medication has been administered and to maintain and share records of accidents. The chance of children becoming ill is minimised as the childminder understands the importance of following hygienic procedures, for example cleaning the food preparation areas. The childminder has appropriate arrangements in place to make parents aware of her policy for excluding children who are sick. There are appropriate arrangements for children to have opportunities to play outside in the garden and at a local recreation ground.

The childminder has satisfactory arrangements to provide children with drinks, snacks of fruit and a light lunch of sandwiches, taking into consideration special dietary requirements and any allergies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder does not have satisfactory knowledge of how to safeguard children in the event of a child protection concern, and does not have information as to how to contact the appropriate authority.

Children have use of the lounge for floor play and use of the comfortable settees and the kitchen for table activities. Play resources are organised in a manner which helps to promote children's free choice. They are sufficient in quality and the childminder has appropriate arrangements to make them easily accessible in boxes.

The childminder ensures that the environment is secure so that children cannot leave unnoticed. The childminder has taken action to ensure that most risks in and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. A gate is available to prevent unsupervised access to the kitchen, the garden gate is secured and the pond is covered to prevent children from falling in. Children would not be fully protected in the event of a fire. A fire blanket is in place in the kitchen, however the second smoke detector is not situated on first floor. The childminder has satisfactory arrangements to take children on outings such as reins to use as appropriate.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder describes a suitable range of activities available to children including construction, role play, painting and sticking, and singing and dancing. Outings include to a toddler group, nature walks in the local woods and following a treasure trail in the holidays.

The childminder talks about encouraging children's knowledge of numbers, colours and letters through regular discussion during play with the children, for example identifying the colour of clothes. The daily structure includes walks to and from school and a mixture of free choice and planned activities. Arrangements for children attending after school include providing opportunities for construction and games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has some equipment to assist her in promoting anti-discriminatory good practice. From discussion she is aware of relevant activities to provide in the event of a child with disabilities and/or learning difficulties attending. The childminder describes appropriate strategies for dealing with any unacceptable behaviour, such as a short period of 'time out' to calm down.

The childminder has satisfactory arrangements to provide information about her service through initial discussion with parents. She describes appropriate arrangements to inform parents about their child through discussion when they collect their child. The childminder makes arrangements to obtain permission for outings and taking photos. However, she does not have arrangements to make written agreements with parents regarding the care of the child, the activities provided and the business arrangements.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

This section is inadequate because of lack of current first aid qualification, child protection knowledge.

Standard 1

Adults in household are all checked dis doc. x-ref SS

Childminder has not attended any additional training dis

When visitors are present, children will not be left alone with them dis X-ref SS

Standard 2

Childminder organises home satisfactorily to provide areas for various types of play e.g. floor play in lounge, table activities in kitchen obs dis

Standard 14

Register completed satisfactorily – times, names doc dis.

Childminder is aware of the retention requirements dis.

Childminder is aware of need for confidentiality

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. This has not been achieved. She was asked to establish written agreements with parents, which has not been achieved. She was asked to provide a fire blanket, which has been achieved, and to install a smoke detector on the first floor, which was not fully achieved as it was sited on the stairway. She was asked to increase access to materials that positively reflect different cultures and disabled people, which has been partially achieved, as she has acquired some items reflecting different cultures. She was asked to ensure that the care of children over eight does not affect the care of younger children, which has been achieved.

She was also asked to ensure that all required records are maintained and that she is fully familiar with the National standards. These have not been achieved, as indicated by the outcome of the inspection.

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
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

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