

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY269254
Inspection date	25 October 2007
Inspector	Jenny Scarlett
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 satisfactory. 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 1999. She lives with her husband in the village of Pamber Heath near Tadley in Hampshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding with toilet and sleep facilities available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under eight years one full time and one part time. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent / toddler group. The family has three dogs and two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise. They walk to and from the local school and nursery as well as the weekly planned programme of activities such as visiting the

library. In addition, they play in the childminder's garden and visit nearby parks, where they can use play apparatus to help develop their physical skills.

Children develop their awareness of good hygiene procedures as part of the daily routine. For example, they learn the need to wash their hands after toileting or touching the family pets. There are measures in place to promote the children's good health. The childminder's sickness policy is shared with parents as part of the registration process. Written parental permission has been obtained to seek emergency treatment, children use separate hand towels to reduce the risk of cross contamination and correct administrative procedures are followed if accidents occur.

Some parents provide lunch boxes for their children whilst others enjoy a home cooked meal prepared by the childminder. The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of encouraging healthy eating, which she reinforces through the snacks and home cooked meals she prepares and offers children during the day. Allergies or dietary issues are discussed with parents prior to a child commencing in the setting. Any needs are recorded and accommodated. Children are able to help themselves to drinks at all times, which helps to ensure they are consuming fluids in sufficient quantities to meet their individual requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and rest within premises that are clean and well maintained. They are able to access the toilet independently and there is a designated room to enable young children to have uninterrupted sleep. Children benefit from the measures that are in place to promote their safety and help avoid accidents. For example, gates prevent children accessing the stairs unsupervised, smoke detectors are kept in working order and socket covers are fitted to exposed electric points. Children have safe and direct access to the fully enclosed garden where they can play on sit and ride toys. Children are kept safe on outings. Buggies and public transport are used and children learn the use of good road crossing practices when they are out in the community. Contact telephone numbers for the children are held on the mobile phone. However, there are no formal written procedures for recording children's emergency details when taking them out in the community.

Children are able to help themselves to a good range of age appropriate resources. They have good access to the conservatory and have copious amounts of choice of play materials. They benefit from the childminder's good understanding of safety issues regarding the purchase and ongoing maintenance of equipment. As a result, children play with toys that are safe and suitable.

Children benefit from the sound understanding the childminder has concerning safe guarding children. She has a clear understanding of child protection issues, confidentiality of information and the correct procedures to follow if concerned about the welfare of a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are secure and confident in the childminder's home; they confidently talk to visitors, the childminder and her parents about sharks and going to London. The childminder is very aware of the children's interests, and readily talks with them to extend their knowledge and vocabulary. Children's imaginative play is promoted well, as the childminder provides a range

of activities and resources for the children to use, for example, creating a "bee bird monster" with play dough.

The childminder provides a variety of appealing toys and activities. Children access the resources easily, and clearly enjoy the toys which promote their development and learning in all areas. The childminder ensures children experience a variety of activities and experiences outside the home which help to promote their development and interests, for example, taking the children to the local park, the library or to Silchester Common. Children readily help the childminder tidy away the toys and resources they have been using as the childminder encourages them to name and count the toys they are putting away. This further extends children's mathematical and language skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the family orientated home, which ensures they settle well and develop a clear sense of belonging. The conservatory provides a range of activities and play resources for the children to have choice in what they play with. The children's behaviour is good because the childminder has a positive approach to behaviour. She has effective strategies in place to manage children and their behaviour, such as saying "no" and using distraction as a positive tool. The children receive constant praise and encouragement from the childminder and this helps them to develop good self-esteem.

Children benefit from the childminder knowing them well, appreciating their differing needs and understanding their varying home circumstances. Each child is valued and recognised as an individual. The childminder has looked after children from different countries and cultures and she ensures she is familiar with some of the words in their language, for example, Punjabi and German. Children develop a sense of place and learn about where they live through many outings and experiences including celebrating festivals and using resources from their own home environment. They access a suitable range of resources, including books, small world toys and puzzles to help them gain an awareness of diversity and the wider world.

The childminder promotes positive relationships with parents and works well with them to meet the needs of children appropriately. Parents are informed of the complaints procedure she has in place. However, this does not contain the latest address and contact number of Ofsted. All parents receive daily verbal feedback about their child's day and the progress they have made.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home in the relaxed and homely environment, where they can move around freely and safely. They receive a good level of support and interaction from the childminder, who knows each child well. The childminder organises the space and resources effectively to meet the children's developmental and individual needs.

All legally required documentation is maintained and securely stored. For example, children's emergency contact information is quickly available to support their care. The childminder has procedures in place to promote the welfare and development of the children she cares for. These are verbally shared with parents and she understands the importance of maintaining confidentiality at all times. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

As a result of the last inspection, the childminder was set two non-regulatory actions to complete an appropriate first aid course and obtain a fire blanket. In addition recommendations were made to improve documentation relating to medical procedures and ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect children from and monitor the temperature of the radiators. The childminder has completed a first aid course and obtained a fire blanket which is sited in the kitchen. This has had a positive impact on the quality of care and safety of the children.

The childminder has obtained written permission for medical advice and treatment from all the parents of the children in her care. The childminder completes visual safety checks on a regular basis to ensure she maintains a safe environment for the children. This further ensures the care, safety and welfare of the children in her care.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- formalise emergency procedures when taking the children out in the community
- ensure parents have access to the contact details for Ofsted.

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