

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY286031
Inspection date	08 January 2008
Inspector	Jacqueline Munden

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 2004. She lives with her husband and their child in Andover, Hampshire.

All areas of the childminder's home are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children on a part time basis.

The family have a dog, two cats and a rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a current certificate in first aid.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes a healthy lifestyle by encouraging regular physical exercise and fresh air as they have regular outings to the park and to indoor soft play areas. When weather permits they use the garden. Children's good health is promoted by the childminder who has a sound understanding of health, hygiene and nutrition. She takes measures to avoid cross infection through her regular routines. For example, children use individual towels and learn to cover their mouths when they cough. Children's health records are well maintained, including accidents and the administration of medication. The childminder has booked to update her training in first aid. She is not fully prepared to deal with a medical emergency as she has not obtained parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment. Children's dietary needs are met as they enjoy the meals and snacks parents provide. The childminder provides healthy snacks of dried and fresh fruit and ensures drinks are always available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have ample space to play and move around safely. They are escorted to the toilet to ensure their safety. They can independently access a wide range of play materials which are clean, safe, in good condition and promotes diversity.

The childminder promotes children's safety well. For example, safety gates are used to prevent children's access to the stairs and cleaning materials are inaccessible. Children learn about keeping themselves safe when walking and travelling in the car as they are reminded to stay close to hold hands and to wear safety belts. Fire safety is generally well promoted as smoke detectors are fitted throughout the house and older children practise the emergency evacuation procedure. However, the fire blanket is not fitted to the wall to enable it's easy access.

The childminder has a sound knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children as she has attended training, has a child protection policy and recognises her role and responsibilities in keeping children safe from harm. The childminder has appropriate parental consent in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded, such as permission to take photographs.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home. They relate well to the childminder who offers a nurturing and fun environment which means they feel secure. Their immediate needs and routines are met for sleep and meal times. Children are confident to ask for help and reach to her for a cuddle.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child development and how to ensure younger children's care and welfare is promoted. She is improving her knowledge in this area by working towards a level three qualification in childcare and education. The childminder plans the day to include quiet times when they read stories and lively times. Children enjoy the interesting range of activities and experiences offered to them in and outside the home such as travelling on the bus and develop their social skills on visits to the café. They have opportunities for creative play using paint, glue and dough. The childminder is particularly skilled in developing

imaginative play. Children enjoy the role she takes as pilot as they travel in the car; they are enthusiastic passengers responding to her narrative of the journey.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. She makes sure their immediate needs are met by keeping to their routines for eating and sleeping. Children develop independence as they are encouraged to put their own shoes on and make choices of what to play with. They grow in confidence as they chat freely with others. Children start to learn about diversity through using resources that promote positive images of race, disability and gender. The childminder has a positive attitude to supporting children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Children behave well; they benefit from the childminder's calm and positive approach to promoting good behaviour. They respond well to her praise and encouragement.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents as they work together to meet the children's individual needs. This includes a written daily diary of activities, meals and rest times. Parents contribute to the diary which ensures they are involved in all aspects of care. They are provided with a good range of information both written and verbal to support the care of the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children benefit from the childminder's good organisation skills. The environment is welcoming and well planned so that children can move around freely and independently. Children get a wide range of play experiences and are well stimulated. The childminder is suitably qualified and committed to improving her skills by attending training. The range of documentation and her own written policies mainly contributes to children's good health, safety and well-being; although there is a weakness as parental consent is needed to seek emergency treatment.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection a recommendation was made to ensure parents are aware of the arrangements for emergency care and sign appropriate consent forms for taking children out and seeking emergency treatment or advice.

Children's health and safety has been improved as parents are informed of procedures the childminder has in place to deal with an emergency. However, the childminder may not respond appropriately as she has not obtained parental consent for her to seek treatment in a medical emergency.

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):

- obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment
- make the fire blanket accessible for use.

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