

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY265329
Inspection date	30 November 2007
Inspector	Judith Reed
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 outstanding. 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 2003. She lives with her husband and their two school-age children in Alresford, near Winchester. The whole of the childminder's home is available for childminding, although children play mainly on the ground floor, 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 nine children on a part time basis. The childminder walks to and from local schools to take and collect children. The family have a pet cat, a canary and several smaller animals.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very healthy and follow excellent hygiene routines. Children are encouraged to use the downstairs toilet independently. The childminder encourages children to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet. A poster reminds children to wash hands and gives

photographic instructions to follow. Children have their own individual hand drying towels. A clear health and hygiene policy is in place which includes information regarding children who are unwell as well as medication administration. Accidents and medication administered are carefully recorded. All records are signed by parents. The childminder holds written permission for emergency medical advice or treatment for each minded child. The childminder is particularly mindful of sun safety and makes parents aware of their duty to protect children. They are requested to provide a sun hat and sun cream or long sleeved shirts. The childminder also holds a national award for providing a smoke free environment.

Children develop their understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of exercise as they have daily opportunities for physical activity. They walk to and from school to take and collect children. Younger children enjoy playing in the home on baby walkers and sit and ride toys. They climb on the climbing frame and slide down the slide. Older children take turns using the well fenced trampoline. Children are regularly taken to the park and sometimes experiment with hoops and balls. They join in fun day picnic activities.

Children benefit from a nutritious diet and learn about healthy eating. They have a good understanding of healthy eating as they observe pictures and charts displayed in the hall. Children pick fruit in the garden and harvest vegetables to eat. The childminder offers children a choice of snacks including fruit, rice cakes or crackers with milk or water to drink. A nutritious meal is served early in the evening and contains fresh organic fruit and vegetables.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a very safe and secure environment because the childminder is extremely vigilant and aware of all potential hazards to children. Children move around most of the ground floor freely. Stair gates placed at the bottom of the stairs and in the kitchen doorway ensure their safety. The childminder keeps the front door and the door to the garage securely locked. Cleaning equipment is stored in the kitchen in a latched cupboard. The rear garden is fully fenced and securely gated. A play house is available for children and the summer house is kept locked when children are present. All low level glass is safe. Smoke alarms are fitted all around the home and a fire blanket is available. The childminder carries out frequent fire evacuation practise with the children to ensure they remain safe in an emergency. She has also prepared a notice for parents showing her emergency plan and giving full information about emergency cover.

Children are encouraged to access resources freely, developing their independence. The toys and play materials are available around the living room. A wide choice of toys, books, puzzles and equipment are available and children enjoy a number of different activities throughout the day. Toys are cleaned as necessary and the childminder ensures all toys are safe and suitable for those children present.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder is knowledgeable regarding child protection procedures. She displays a poster regarding protecting children and has information booklets to hand. The childminder is well aware of her professional duty to protect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's confidence is developed by a well trained and experienced carer. The childminder helps to develop children's self esteem by offering choices and encouraging children to make their own decisions. Children are praised and encouraged throughout their activities. They observe a display of photographs from Africa along the entrance hall and point out that sometimes babies are carried on their mother's backs. They know that children do not always have shoes to wear because they are poor.

Children choose a book for the childminder to read. They settle comfortably on the sofa together so that everyone can see the pictures. Children are encouraged to join in the story. They count the items and open their mouths wide, like sharks. Children decide to change the book and choose 'Five Little Ducks'. The childminder uses some props to help illustrate the story. Children count the little ducks throughout the song reinforcing their knowledge of number.

Children decide to use the Fuzzy Felt equipment. They sort out the felt and find they have body shapes of both males and females. Children stick the felt clothing onto the figures. The childminder names all the articles of clothing and shows children how they are worn. This effectively helps to develop their knowledge of their own bodies and language. Children quickly move on to play with the home corner equipment. They play imaginatively with the cooking equipment in the kitchen, preparing a large plate of assorted food for the childminder. The childminder joins in the game saying, 'Oh lovely, it looks lovely and I have a spoon and fork as well, thank you'. Children play further imaginative games with the shop area. They invite the childminder to be the shop keeper. Children are encouraged to name the fruit and vegetables they wish to buy.

Children request to do some gluing. The childminder finds some paper sheets and one child carries them to the low table. The childminder places three boxes of different shapes of material and paper on the table. Some of the shapes have a self adhesive backing. Children make pictures and cut up the paper which they choose from the boxes. They learn to use scissors correctly. Children have their own pot of glue and some pencils. The childminder notices that one child has carefully set a line of square shapes on her paper. She asks the child what shape the pieces are and the child says they are square. She also says that she is making a picture of a house. The childminder writes on her picture that it is a house. They talk about the picture being taken home later and being displayed, showing their work is valued.

The childminder uses Birth to three matters records to evidence children's activities and development. She records observations and also uses photographs. The childminder also builds a wonderful scrapbook record for parents. These include more photographs, tickets from outings, leaflets and examples of their work.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children develop excellent understanding of equal opportunities and diversity through a range of toys and activities. The childminder provides a wide choice of books which reflect diversity, including children from other cultures, religions and those with disabilities. Children also play with dolls and small world people from around the world, or play games and complete puzzles showing other cultures. The childminder has a clear equal opportunities policy stating that she

acknowledges festivals from around the world and introduces children to the story behind the celebration.

All children are valued and respected. The childminder has no experience of caring for children with disabilities or learning difficulties, but has a positive attitude towards additional needs and would work closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Children behave very well. They are encouraged throughout their activities. The childminder plays with the children and praises their efforts and learning. Children are reminded about the rules of the home as they are clearly displayed in the hallway. A behaviour management policy is in place and the childminder would work closely with parents to share strategies if necessary.

Children benefit from the positive relationship with parents as well as the frequent communication between the childminder and their parents. The childminder provides a daily diary record book for each pre-school child giving information regarding activities, outings, food consumed and sleep times. Many parents also receive verbal feedback at the end of the day. The childminder builds excellent business relationships with the parents who complete all necessary documentation. Parents are given copies of all policies and procedures, including the complaints procedure. Parents value the childminder and thank her for her hard work.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very well supervised. All necessary checks have been completed and the childminder remains within her ratios at all times. The childminder is professionally supported in the excellent care she provides by a network co-ordinator. Up to date and relevant training is valued by the childminder and she accesses many courses, conferences and workshops to enhance the service she provides for families. The childminder has completed the Level 3 course in Childminding Practice. She also holds up to date first aid training and food safety certificates.

Children feel at home and comfortable in the well organised environment. They move around the home and access toys and equipment they require. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are taken out regularly to the library, to parent and toddler group and childminders' group meetings. The childminder ensures her register is accurate at all times with times of arrival and departure carefully recorded. Parents also sign the children in and out of the premises. The childminder has thorough knowledge of the National Standards and ensures she keeps Ofsted informed about changes as necessary.

Children's care is enhanced as their personal documentation is stored in well organised, confidential folders. The childminder is able to find any information required quickly and easily.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve the procedure for recording medicines and their prior consent; and share key policies with parents, such as a sickness policy.

The childminder gives parents copies of all her policies including the health and hygiene policy which includes procedures to follow when children are unwell. She also has a clear accident and medication recording book showing parents' signed permission to administer medication.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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