

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY252611
Inspection date	18 March 2008
Inspector	Anne Gunston
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 has been registered since 2003 and she is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to care for a total of six children; currently there are five children on roll who require a mix of full and part time care. The childminder lives with her husband, one adult and two school aged children in a property in the Salvington area of Worthing. The home is close to local shops, schools and park. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding with toilet and sleeping facilities provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's dietary needs are very well catered for by the childminder. She keeps precisely to instructions given by parents concerning any preferences or food allergies; the childminder is happy to serve items which parents supply or will provide freshly prepared meals or snacks for children in her care. Children are well nourished as the childminder ensures they receive a well balanced diet each day. Children enjoy varied, healthy snacks consisting, for example, of

strawberries, grapes and hot cross buns and develop excellent eating habits. They are encouraged to help the childminder in preparation of the snacks and enjoy sociable meal times sitting together at a table. The childminder provides each child with their own water bottle, ensuring they remain well hydrated and promoting their overall health.

Children relish the many opportunities they have to be active; they enjoy energetic play in the childminder's garden where they can safely use a range of equipment to promote their physical development. The childminder encourages children to walk whenever it is practical or possible to do so. She arranges trips to local parks, and children also walk to the toddler group to experience dance, music and movement sessions. Children learn that exercise is an important part of a healthy lifestyle.

Children's health is extremely well protected by the childminder's practice. She provides each child with their own colour-coded towel in the family bathroom and children appreciate the need to help themselves to tissues to wipe their noses. Children realise the importance of cleanliness; for example, they frequently use the disposable wipes to clean their own hands and faces in preparation for cooking activities or snack time. The childminder provides these for children's use so they are not deterred by a trip to the first floor bathroom; she pays thorough attention to detail in respect of children's health. The childminder has an efficient system for recording any accidents or medication which children require. Her records are thorough and shared with parents at the earliest opportunity to ensure that children's care is continuous. The childminder's policy regarding children who are unwell is made available to parents; she holds up-to-date information on infectious diseases and takes every opportunity to protect children from risk of infection or illness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a very well planned homely environment, where they can access the ample toys and play materials in complete safety. The childminder has carefully arranged the toys in an inviting manner in labelled boxes on open shelving in the playroom. This ensures that children can easily select items of their choosing, promoting their independence. The childminder organises her home to ensure that children feel relaxed and at ease; children enjoy identifying their own photographs on the 'who is here today' board and point out pieces of their own work which are displayed prominently in the playroom. Children are able to hang their own coats on the low level coat pegs in the hall and have plenty of space for quiet or energetic play.

The childminder has a comprehensive understanding of safety issues and takes exceptional precautions to protect children in her care. The home is secure and maintained to a high standard; the childminder monitors the condition of her home on a daily basis and ensures that children are kept safe at all times. Children are learning to have constant regard for their own safety; the childminder prompts them to tell her if water is spilt as this may make the floor slippery and reminds them that it is unsafe to run indoors. When on outings children learn about road safety; they confidently describe how they must look both ways to check that it is safe before crossing roads.

Children benefit from the childminder's secure knowledge of child protection issues. She is completely aware of her responsibility to safeguard children and informs parents of her policy in this respect. She has completed specific training and would refer any ongoing concerns about children's welfare to the relevant agency without delay.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an impressive range of well planned, exciting learning opportunities in the childminder's care. They become confident and outgoing, because they know that the childminder listens attentively to what they have to say and values their opinions. Children are really energised by the childminder's suggestion that they make cornflake nests for the Easter eggs, keen to 'let's go weigh our chocolate'. The childminder has high expectations of the children; she encourages their independence, involves children in weighing ingredients for themselves and asks them to decide when the scales appear balanced. Children happily sing their favourite songs to an audience; the childminder's interaction with them is excellent. When she joins in with her version children become even more creative and imaginative with the rhymes.

Children's language skills are flourishing; they thoroughly enjoy conversations with the childminder because these are relevant to their experiences. The childminder knows the children really well and engages them in discussions about their interests at every opportunity. These conversations often revolve around events which happened when other children were in her care, which encourages children to always show thought and consideration for others. The childminder recognises children's need to play independently at times and allows them to do so; children are able to enjoy solitary play if they wish. The childminder makes sure that their interest is sustained and encourages them to become involved in an alternative activity if they appear aimless.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are behaving very well in the childminder's care. They demonstrate a great deal of care and concern for each other and show clear enjoyment of each other's company. The childminder is an excellent role model for the children; she is calm and respectful when she speaks to each child and consistently shows her appreciation for their efforts. The childminder shares her behaviour policy with parents and asks that they agree with her methods for dealing with the rare incidences of unwanted behaviour. Children receive consistent messages and care which mirrors that in their own home.

Children are highly valued as individuals by the childminder, who shows exceptional understanding of each child's character. The childminder obtains comprehensive information from parents concerning their wishes and children's routines, and follows their instructions without fail ensuring children feel completely secure and confident. Her inclusive practice benefits all children; by discussion and preparation of activities, the childminder helps children to fully understand and value the wider world.

Parents receive a full set of the childminder's policies and procedures, which fully explain the service she provides. She asks that parents review these closely and sign to confirm that they agree; her willingness to have this discussion provides for an open, honest relationship which benefits the children enormously. When working arrangements are agreed and established, the childminder additionally seeks parents' comments on her work, and regularly gives them appraisal forms to complete. Children's progress is carefully assessed by the childminder, who completes a daily diary to be shared with parents, who are asked to contribute comments of their own.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are really well supported as the childminder is dedicated to meeting their needs in full. She organises space available to children in her home exceptionally well, allowing children to move around in complete confidence and safety. The childminder shows a high level of commitment to improving her childcare knowledge and skills; she attends frequent training events so continually improves the outcomes for children. She is completing an early years National Vocational Qualification at level 3, has attended recent courses which include 'Settling in without tears', and inclusive childminding which relates to work with disabled children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The childminder keeps meticulous records which support all aspects of her work and reflect the professional approach which she applies to the care of children. Records relating to individual children are stored in a secure, confidential manner and shared with parents at the earliest opportunity.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has given a great deal of thought to improving her provision in this respect. Children use an extensive range of small world figures, books and games in their play which raise their awareness of other cultures and ways of life. The childminder takes children on well planned outings, for example, to a Chinese restaurant, where children are encouraged to sample traditional foods. In their conversations with the childminder, children learn to show respect for everyone in society. The childminder also supplements the range of play materials in her ownership with items borrowed from toy libraries.

The childminder was also asked to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. This document is in place for all children in her care. The childminder is able to take prompt action should a serious accident occur, confident in the knowledge that parents agree with her actions and children's wellbeing is assured.

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