

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345788
Inspection date	07 August 2008
Inspector	Mandy Gannon
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 registered in 2007. She lives in a residential area of Fleet, Hampshire, with her husband and two children, aged six and two years. The house is within walking distance of local amenities. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding, with toilet facilities provided in this area. An upstairs bedroom is used for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children under eight years of age at any one time. There are currently five children on roll, who attend on part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a clear understanding of good personal hygiene through well organised routines and support from the childminder. Children are aware of the need to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating food. Children are reminded about the importance of handwashing and cross-infection is minimised as paper towels are used to dry hands. Effective nappy changing practices are in place and observed as the childminder wears gloves and disposes

of them appropriately. Children are protected from infection as a clear sickness policy is in place and the childminder has an up-to-date first aid certificate. However, standards of hygiene are not sufficient in all areas as some equipment is not sufficiently clean, for example, highchairs are not clean and have dried food stuck to them.

Children benefit from balanced, nutritious, healthy snacks and meals provided by the childminder. The childminder takes into account any dietary requirements, allergies or preferences when preparing and serving food. Children are offered drinks on a regular basis and younger children are reminded about the importance of drinking frequently.

Children enthusiastically participate in regular opportunities to play outside. They ask to go outside and play on the trampoline in the enclosed garden or access a wide range of outdoor activities, such as a play house and cooker, ride on toys, football, and bats and balls. The childminder plans regular outings to places of interest, parks, nature walks, swimming, and walks in the local area. Children have times throughout the day for energetic or quieter activities. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs and suitable facilities are available.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the positive steps that have been put in place to promote their safety. For example, stair gates are in place, security is maintained throughout the property, a fire evacuation procedure is in place and regular fire drills are practised and evaluated. However, the fire blanket is not secured to the wall in the kitchen and smoke alarms on the premises are not checked at regular intervals. Children's safety is maintained on outings due to the childminder's vigilance and the safety precautions she has put in place. For example, she has permission to transport children in her car and has parents' contact details with her at all times.

Children have access to a suitable range of toys and equipment, some of which children can access independently from low level boxes. Children are able to move freely and make choices.

Children are well protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of her role and responsibility to protect children. She has a detailed child protection policy in place, unknown people's identification is meticulously checked and a visitor's book is maintained. The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and the steps to follow should she have any concerns. She has contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem as they receive appropriate praise, encouragement and support from the childminder. Children are confident communicators as the childminder is interested in what they say and do. Children receive consistent support and encouragement as the childminder asks them questions to make them think and is involved in their play. They are able to access some resources independently whilst the childminder plans other activities.

Children build positive relationships with the childminder and their peers. They are secure in the surroundings and are happy, settled and involved in activities. Children participate in a wide range of activities which are suitable for their age and stage of development, for example, they draw and colour with a variety of pencils and pens that they freely access. The childminder records the children's progress in daily communication diaries and takes photographs of activities

they have participated in; she is aware of areas of interest and uses this information to promote their development and plan activities.

Children participate in regular activities both inside and outside of the home. They play in the enclosed garden and enjoy regular trips to local places of interest, parks and playgrounds.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Positive relationships are developed with parents and carers to ensure the individual needs of the children are met. Parents are kept informed through regular discussions, a whiteboard detailing daily activities, daily communication diaries and a regular newsletter. Children's individual needs are met well and the childminder works closely with parents to meet those requirements and is currently providing children with language support.

Children behave well. They are polite and courteous and encouraged to be kind to one another. Children are aware of expected behaviour through house rules and a childminder who acts as a calm role model. The childminder consistently implements her behaviour management policy where she talks to the children, gives clear explanations and offers appropriate praise and encouragement.

Children develop their awareness of the local community as they participate in activities, for example, the childminder has planned regular trips and outings throughout the summer holidays to ensure the children get together with their friends. The childminder promotes children's understanding of the wider world as they taste different food for Chinese New Year and the childminder records in their diary what they liked and disliked.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the complaints procedure. She has not received any complaints but has a detailed policy in place which includes the contact address and telephone number of the regulator.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The childminder has clear, comprehensive written policies and procedures in place that she shares with parents and carers. The certificate of registration is clearly displayed in the hall, ensuring that parents have clear information about her conditions of registration. She maintains most required documentation, although information in the attendance record is not sufficient and not always up-to-date. All documentation maintains confidentiality and is secured stored.

Children are well protected and supported as suitable ratios are maintained and the childminder meets individual needs well. The childminder plans and organises the day effectively, ensuring that this includes regular outings. However, fire safety and standards of hygiene are not sufficiently promoted in all areas.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, 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):

- ensure that all equipment used by children is clean and well maintained
- ensure that the fire blanket is in place on the wall in the kitchen
- ensure that the record of attendance is sufficiently completed with up to date correct details
- ensure that smoke alarms are regularly checked

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