

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111634
Inspection date	17 July 2008
Inspector	Hazel Stuart-Buddery

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 1995. She lives with her husband and three children in Farnborough, Hampshire. The property is close to local schools and shops.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight at any one time. There is currently one child on roll. Children have access to the whole of the downstairs of the house and the garden. The family have a dog.

The childminder attends local children's activities and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and maintained environment. They receive appropriate care if there is an accident because the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Children have regular opportunities to play outside and get fresh air and some children happily recall that

they like to play on the bikes. Children learn the importance of daily hygiene routines. They know they wash their hands to wash away germs before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder uses anti bacterial gel which the children call 'magic soap'. Children learn about healthy eating as meals and snacks are provided by the childminder and the parents which are healthy and nutritious. Children have independent access to drinks throughout the day which allows them to make their own healthy lifestyle choices. The childminder advises that any medical needs and allergies are discussed with parents, however, this information is not recorded on children's record forms. The childminder is aware to record accidents and any medication administered although advises that she has never needed to.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have plenty of space to play and can move freely and safely as all toys are stored in boxes and floors are free of obstacles. Children have access to low level tables and chairs, although these are used mainly for outside play. They have access to a small range of resources, although other toys are available. Children play in a safe environment where hazards are identified and minimised. The front door is kept locked and the back garden is secure, ensuring that children cannot leave unattended. Children learn about keeping themselves safe while out walking near roads. Some children confidently explain how to cross the road safely.

Children are protected from the risk of fire. Smoke alarms and a fire blanket are installed. A written fire escape plan is in place and the policy states that it is practised every month with the children, however, in practice, this is not implemented.

The childminder has a sufficient understanding of child protection procedures to promote and safeguard children while they are in her care. The childminder advises parents of her responsibility through a written policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's care. They have access to a small range of resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. The childminder has a wider range of toys available that the children can ask for. Resources are not always organised effectively to give children a range of play opportunities and to encourage their independence. The children enjoy watching the television and videos, although at times this distracts them from concentrating on other activities. Children respond with excitement as the childminder suggests that they ice some cakes. They kneel on chairs at the kitchen table and enthusiastically use spoons to put icing on their cakes. They choose what topping they like and happily eat one, keeping some to take home. Children enjoy dressing up, they dress as pirates and princesses and make up their own scenarios and they all play together. The childminder interacts with the children and generally directs their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with respect and given choices helping them to feel good about themselves. The childminder has an awareness of equality of opportunity and provides resources that help children learn about the wider world. Children benefit from the childminder's clear guidelines

for behaviour. They are well behaved and respond positively to praise given to them by the childminder.

The childminder has a positive relationship with parents. She has a set of policies and procedures that are shared with parents, who sign to acknowledge they have read them. Written contracts are in place. However, children's record forms are not completed. All required parental consents are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They have independent access to a small range of resources and receive high levels of support from the childminder.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the National Standards. She has a set of policies and procedures, although not all policies are reflected in practice. The childminder maintains her paperwork reasonably well and most documentation is in place. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children; improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and ensure appropriate documentation is maintained; assess the risks to children in relation to the chemicals in kitchen cupboards and take action to minimise these risks. The childminder has made some improvements since the last inspection. A relevant first aid course has been completed; she has talked with other childminder's and sought information from the internet to extend her knowledge of the National Standards, however, there are still some weaknesses in this area; she has risk assessed her home and placed locks on kitchen cupboards to prevent access. As a result of these improvements children's welfare, care and safety have been improved.

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):

- extend the range of resources and activities that are freely available to children in order for them to select independently and increase their play opportunities
- ensure children's record forms are completed.

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