

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY370540
Inspection date	11 April 2008
Inspector	Heidi Wilton
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 has been registered since 2008. She was previously registered from 2005 to 2007 and reregistered in 2008. She lives with her husband and child aged five, in the Lee-on-Solent area of Hampshire. All areas of the property except the second floor are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. The childminder currently has four children under eight on a part-time basis and one under eight years on a full-time basis. The childminder is able to walk to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children wash their hands with soap and water after using the bathroom and before eating meals. They dry their hands with separate hand towels which ensures cross contamination is fully prevented. The childminder talks to the children about the importance of washing hands which ensures they gain an understanding about good hygiene. The childminder shares a

sickness policy with parents to ensure they are well informed about incubation periods should their child contract an infectious illness. She has gained written parental permission from parents to seek or gain emergency medical advice or treatment. This ensures they are treated without delay in an emergency.

The childminder is happy to provide meals for the children. Parents currently provide their own foods for their children. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of storing foods appropriately and at the correct temperature. She gains information from parents both verbally and written about children's allergies and dietary requirements. This ensures she is well informed and children are kept safe and healthy. Children enjoy walks to the local beach and to the local library. They have fun in the garden as they play in tents and crawl through pop-up tunnels. They enjoy going to local toddler groups and have fun moving their bodies to familiar rhymes and action songs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play within a safe environment. Doors are secured when not in use and the childminder has robust procedures to ensure children are collected by their designated person. Children wear florescent wrist bands when on outings to ensure they can be seen clearly. The childminder has lost and uncollected child policies in place which ensures appropriate procedures are followed should such an event occur. The childminder ensures children are safe within the home as she has put many safety measures into place such as stair gates, smoke alarms and child-sized furniture. She practises the fire drill with the children and checks the smoke alarms regularly to ensure they are in working order. The childminder risk assesses her home each day both inside and outside. This ensures all hazards are identified and minimised.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection procedures. She demonstrates a clear understanding of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect. She has attended child protection training courses and has a child protection policy in place. However, she has not obtained the current Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and relaxed within the childminder's home. They are able to rest and relax on the sofa to watch some television or to snuggle in with the childminder to read a story. Children are able to sit on the comfy chairs and look at books and pictures together. They enjoy frequent opportunities for free play. They help themselves to toys from the play room and use the toys set out for them by the childminder. Young toddlers use the support of low level furniture to aid them with walking and moving around the environment. Children engage with a wide variety of resources such as prams, dressing up clothes, musical instruments, small world play, construction and arts and crafts. They enjoy playing with role-play resources such as small toy barbeques and toddlers have fun as they move small cars around the toy garage. The childminder interacts at child level and offers praise for children's achievements. This in turn boosts children's self esteem and confidence. The childminder works effectively with parents and offers settling in visits to parents and their children at the outset. She works with parents for what is best for them and their child. The childminder communicates with parents and gains information about children's starting points. This ensures she has some knowledge about the

children before they start and enables her to create a smooth transition from the main carer to her provision.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder knows the children well and treats them all with equal respect. She has created strong bonds with the children and values them all as individuals. The childminder celebrates festivals with the children throughout the year such as Chinese new year and Christmas. Children have access to books and puzzles which portray images and foster an understanding amongst the children about other cultures and positive gender roles. The childminder has no experience of learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She has not currently attended learning difficulties and/or disabilities training but through discussion states she is keen to do so. The childminder states she is happy to work with parents and outside agencies to ensure consistency in care and learning is achieved for the children.

The childminder uses positive praise and encouragement for children's good behaviour and achievements. Through discussion she states she uses distraction methods and talking to children at their level for any unwanted behaviour. The childminder communicates with parents daily and in addition she completes a diary log to support the verbal communications. The diary log is a two way process and parents are able to write messages to the childminder. The childminder has received many references from parents. They state 'I found the childminder to be both reliable and trustworthy and she demonstrated excellent communication skills with the children and parents alike'. Parents are able to approach the childminder at anytime if they wish to discuss their child. Parents are well informed about how to contact the regulatory body and the process to follow should they have any concerns.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are comfortable and are at ease within the well organised environment. They are settled and familiar with both the routines and the home. The childminder ensures she remains within her ratio at all times and that her register is up-to-date and accurate. She knows her responsibility to ensure all adults living within the household are vetted and suitable to be around the children. The childminder has maintained an up-to-date paediatric first aid qualification. She demonstrates good forward thinking skills as she has booked onto another first aid course in the near future before her existing qualification expires. This ensures there will not be a period of time when her qualification is not maintained. The childminder has appropriate childcare qualifications and has attended some relevant childcare training sessions such as child protection. This needs to continue to ensure that she keeps abreast of future initiatives in the provision of care and children's development. The childminder is well organised and keeps all documentation confidential. She keeps necessary forms and information to hand and ensures she holds emergency information about minded children at all times when she is out and about. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 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 the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures
- continue professional development to encompass new initiatives and curriculum ideas.

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