

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	155517
Inspection date	11 June 2008
Inspector	Teresa Colburn
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 2001. She lives with her husband and two children in Goring by Sea, near Worthing, West Sussex. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder takes children to the library and local beach.

The childminder is registered to care for five children and is currently minding five children on a part-time basis.

The family have a dog and fish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder maintains a clean and tidy home environment. Children are cared for appropriately when sick or injured; parents are requested to collect children early when unwell,

ensuring children are cared for in their own environment. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate so is able to administer first aid in the event of an accident.

Children are helped to develop healthy eating habits. They are offered well balanced, healthy nutritious meals. For example, roast dinners, chicken korma, salmon, spaghetti bolognese, homemade pies, 100% chicken nuggets. The childminder allows the children to choose the evening menu every Wednesday, they eagerly select their favourite meals. During the inspection, children freely help themselves to the jug of juice in the garden, they recognise the importance of remaining hydrated during hot weather.

Children have warm relationships with the childminder, who is responsive to their needs. They have plenty of regular exercise in the outdoor play area, local beach and parks, developing their physical skills well.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is welcoming and secure, children feel confident within the family home and childminder's company and approach her with ease. Children's artwork is displayed, which makes children feel welcome. Children have access to a range of play materials that provide appropriate challenges for all children. Storage of toys and equipment allows children the freedom to make choices and access resources within a safe environment.

The childminder takes positive steps to promote children's safety within the setting and outdoors. She ensures that appropriate safety measures are taken to prevent accidents. Regular checks successfully minimise potential risks to children. However, the garden shed glass could pose a hazard to children when playing outside. The childminder supervises children appropriately and makes them aware of dangers whilst letting children play as freely as possible, letting them develop independence. For example, reminding them of the need to be careful of each other whilst playing football and riding go - karts. General security and levels of supervision are satisfactory and prevent children from leaving the premises unsupervised. However, the fire blanket was recently removed during decoration of the kitchen, therefore, at present, potentially making it ineffective in the event of emergency.

The childminder has a suitable knowledge of child protection issues. She recognises her responsibility and the importance of safeguarding children and ensuring that their welfare is paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children approach the childminder for support, indicating trusting relationships are built. The childminder is warm and affectionate, making children feel comfortable and valued.

Children have access to a range of resources that allows them to become involved in both quiet and active play. Due to the limited amount of time the childminder cares for minded children, she feels she meets their individual needs and recognises caring for after school children may be different from caring for babies and younger children. Children arrive home from school eager to play in the garden. They negotiate taking turns using the family trampoline and greatly enjoy the experience of parallel jumping, seeing who can jump the highest. Children provide each other with guidance and assistance whilst playing football, helping each other further

develop skills and techniques. They are keen to interact with each other whilst playing and negotiate taking turns well.

Children benefit from interaction with the childminder, who offers support when required and asks questions to encourage learning and aid children with their developing skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel secure and happy within the setting and are provided with care and attention. They are eager to play, encouraged by the childminder's approach to their learning and development. The childminder is aware all children are individuals, develop at different stages and have differing needs. Children learn the resources and activities are available for all to share, regardless of gender.

The childminder has not previously cared for a child with learning difficulties and/or disabilities; however she recognises the importance to work closely with parents to ensure the child's needs are fully met.

Children benefit from praise and encouragement. Children are gently reminded to share resources and encouraged to apologise when they accidentally upset each other. The childminder uses appropriate strategies according to their age and stage of development, she uses distraction and explanation to ensure that children understand right from wrong.

The childminder has developed an open and honest relationship with parents. She values their contributions and takes on board comments. Daily verbal discussions keep parents up to date with children's activities and progress. This ensures good home links, which enable cohesive working relationships. She informs parents fully of her practice, ensuring children have continued support.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and at ease in the childminder's home, which means they are confident to initiate their own play whilst feeling settled and confident. Children are supported at all times, ensuring they are protected from unvetted persons and kept safe.

Since the last inspection the childminder has reorganised documentation, to ensure it is well organised and confidentiality maintained. However, a relevant written consent has not been obtained from parents, which poses a slight risk to children. For example, parental consent for children to use the enclosed family trampoline. The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was set four actions. The childminder has attended an up-to-date appropriate first aid course, ensured the outdoor play area is fully enclosed and safe for minded children and implemented both a visual and written risk assessment to ensure animal faeces are removed prior to children's play. She has implemented new and positive effective behaviour management techniques and updated her knowledge of the National Standards. This ensures the actions have been adequately met.

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):

- ensure the fire blanket is suitably positioned in line with the manufacturer's recommendation
- continue to ensure the outdoor play area does not pose a hazard to children
- ensure all parental written consents are in place, in respect of seeking permission for children to use the family trampoline.

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