

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY367494
Inspection date	30 June 2008
Inspector	Christine Clint
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 registered in 2008 and lives with her husband and two children who both attend school. The family home is situated in a residential area of Midhurst, West Sussex. Local shops, schools and parks are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor and two first floor bedrooms are used for childminding, with a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two cats, a rabbit and indoor fish. The childminder holds previously attained childcare qualifications and has completed the Introducing Childcare Practice course. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. There are currently seven children being cared for by the childminder, this includes after school and holiday care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children follow very regular routines during their care to encourage them to learn about personal hygiene. The childminder includes daily reminders about hand washing for older children and she provides a stool for smaller children to reach the sink, helping them to learn how to manage.

Children have individual flannels which are washed daily and the childminder uses anti-bacterial spray liberally around the home. Children are encouraged with gentle dialogue, when they need to have their nappies changed after sleeping, and thorough procedures are in place to maintain hygiene.

Children's health is fully promoted in the written health and safety information that the childminder has compiled. There is precise information for parents on children's attendance, to prevent any cross contamination of illnesses. The childminder ensures that the home is cleaned before children arrive and she sensibly assesses any risks from the family pets.

Children's accidents are efficiently managed because the childminder records all details, including small injuries that occur on the way home from school, these are signed by parents at collection time. The childminder ensures that some first aid requirements are carried with her, but she has not yet obtained a full first aid kit. There are clear documents in place to record any medication administered to children and the childminder understands the regulatory requirements to obtain prior written permission.

Children have healthy snack food when they return home from school because the childminder provides prepared carrots, cucumber, cheese crackers and fruit. They all sit together and have drinks and snack. They have apples if they are still hungry and children sometimes eat the food that they prepare with the childminder, for example, pizzas or cakes they have baked. Parents supply all food for the youngest children and the childminder stores this on a separate shelf in the refrigerator. The childminder has clear, up to date knowledge about children's allergies and closely liaises with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Older children learn about road safety as pedestrians and they also learn how to behave sensibly when they are passengers in a car, because the childminder encourages them to complete written quizzes with true or false answers. This provides many talking points and increases their understanding. The childminder walks to and from school with children frequently, she provides opportunities for them to make decisions about crossing roads whilst she can closely monitor this. She effectively manages younger children's safety by using reins. Children are also very involved with practising fire drills regularly, the childminder has a whistle and all evacuation procedures are clearly displayed. All fire drills are recorded and fire safety equipment in the home is in place. There are written emergency procedures in place and the childminder has a named contact person for support, this information is shared with all parents.

The home is secure and safety equipment is in use when smaller children are present, their movements are closely supervised at all times and especially when playing in the garden. Children use both floors of the family home and the childminder has a baby monitor in use for sleeping children. Play resources are organised and available at a low level for small children, they can sit comfortably on cushions and choose different items from a good selection. There are stored games for older children and more choice in the upstairs bedrooms. The childminder plans activities and rotates play equipment accordingly. She assesses any hazards for small children very regularly before they arrive by removing any toys that are not suitable.

Children's welfare is strongly supported because the childminder has a good knowledge of safeguarding children. She has experience and fully understands her duty to respond to any concerns, she has developed her own written policy for child protection. This information is

clearly shared with parents and the childminder is willing to record any injuries that children have on arrival.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's routines are dedicatedly followed to ensure they settle and their happiness and health are fully maintained. The childminder recognises children's interests and records these, to show how their individual development is purposely encouraged and used when planning activities. For example, she is very aware that smaller children enjoy sensory play and they currently relish handling small bags to hold items. She has linked these ideas and provided a variety of different children's handbags, she has also put together a treasure basket to extend their senses and increase language development. The records also show that smaller children respond well to music and the childminder has plans to attend music and rhyming sessions locally as well as providing music in the home.

Children know where to find their play items and they respond well to the childminder's continual interaction and involvement in their play. Toddlers show that they are happy and growing in confidence because they are using emergent language and make strong eye contact with adults. The childminder fully encourages their language development by using stories or looking at picture books. She also finds new words to describe the rattling sound when children join together plastic shapes and shake them. Children move freely on the ground floor and handle appropriate play items successfully, they use shape sorters and stacking games.

Older children have variety in their after school and holiday play because the childminder also plans for this. She is aware that currently all the after school children in her care are keen to practise their skills with diabolos and to learn new tricks. They often have access to the play dough, they have puppet shows and make dens in the upstairs bedroom. Children are happy playing outside when the weather is fine and they have football and skateboards to practise their physical skills. The childminder includes cooking activities and provides popcorn for special film sessions. She encourages older children's development by helping with computer skills and including opportunities for them to learn about safety on the roads when they are all out together.

Children show enthusiasm and interest in their surroundings and in their contact with others and this is strongly supported by the childminder's comprehensive understanding of their level of development. She clearly identifies what children are happy doing and understands why, she provides instant ideas and full involvement in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well because the childminder involves them in decisions, she has encouraged older children to develop their own rules and these are listed on the notice board. Children are also encouraged to think about feelings and to understand that the time they spend with the childminder is their time, and they can learn to manage this. The childminder is aware that providing activities which interest and involve children increases their enjoyment and behaviour.

Children are fully settled within the home because there are well established relationships with parents. The childminder has a thorough portfolio available which explains the childcare service. Parents are expected to sign once they have read the policies and procedures in place. A large

notice board is also displayed which contains very relevant information about children's daily care. Parents are well informed about the procedures for making complaints and the childminder is prepared to record these. All children's records are clearly completed and confidentially stored. All contracts are fully available and the childminder includes extra signed permission for many activities and areas of care. She shares daily written information with parents, about children's sleep, meals and changing routines and this daily diary is available for parents to return any comments or information for the childminder.

All children in the childminder's care are treated with equal concern and according to their age and stage of development. The childminder understands the importance of gender equality in the use of all resources, she provides dressing up clothes, books and a welcome poster which reflect the diversity within society. The childminder has an open attitude and a good understanding of helping all children to develop. She has experience in providing opportunities for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and of linking with other agencies to support children's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children have well organised care and dedicated attention because the childminder is constantly involved with them and aware of their needs; she has developed a broad range of policies and procedures to show how children's daily care and regular routines are managed. The childminder holds existing childcare qualifications and has attended the compulsory childminder training since registration, although she has not been able to attend first aid training. However, she shows a strong dedication to increasing her knowledge in several areas and has evidence to show that further training is planned. The registration certificate is fully displayed for parents and children's attendance is clearly recorded. The childminder shows a good understanding of the childcare regulations and of her responsibility to maintain these. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

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):

- ensure that a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children is completed.
- provide a fully equipped first aid kit.

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