

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY359043
Inspection date	02 June 2008
Inspector	Lynne Elizabeth Lewington
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 2007. She lives with her husband and two children in a three bedroom house in Hook. The property is close to local shops, schools and amenities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the bedrooms for rest. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years. There are currently eight children on roll. The childminder can take and collect children from the local school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's play and care is undertaken in a spotlessly clean and pleasant environment where good care is taken to prevent the spread of germs. For example, they learn simple, sensible hand washing routines and have easy access to liquid soap and their own towels. A well equipped first aid kit and the childminder's awareness of first aid ensures that accidents can be dealt with effectively.

Children enjoy good quality, nutritious, freshly prepared food each day. Dependant on the time of day they have sandwiches or cooked dinners which include meat/fish and vegetables. Some bring their own food, which is stored appropriately, ensuring they experience continuity in their diets. Children eat fruit for snacks and are encouraged to drink water frequently to prevent dehydration.

Babies develop their physical skills as the childminder sits on the floor and encourages standing and crawling. The floor space and arrangement of furniture provides a safe, comfortable environment for the youngest children to pull themselves to standing. Visits to the park provide older children with opportunities to develop their physical strength and coordination. A wide variety of toys and activities enable the children to develop hand and eye coordination in their play. For example, children undertake puzzles and construction activities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home provides children with a very well maintained, attractive environment for their play and care. The comfortable conservatory is flooded with natural light, promoting a sense of well-being. Children enjoy the garden for their play and bedrooms are available for rest if required. A range of good quality age appropriate toys and games are available for the children's use.

Safety measures are taken throughout the premises to promote the children's welfare. Children learn to consider their actions and be aware of their own safety. For example, the simple house rules discourage children from jumping on the furniture. They learn to behave safely on outings to the park and on the way home from school, developing a working knowledge of road safety. Sensible fire prevention measures are in place and children practise fire evacuations to enable them to leave the premises swiftly in an emergency.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and the action she would take if she was concerned about a child in her care. Contact numbers for the local children's services are easily accessible in the childminder's documentation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Babies and young children experience warm nurturing care with the childminder, who understands the importance of following children's daily routines whenever possible. The childminder works closely with parents to understand very young children's needs, enabling them to feel secure and confident in her care. She understands the importance of providing children with a variety of stimulating experiences, and regular opportunities for food and rest, in order for them to feel contented and happy.

Age appropriate toys are set out for the young children before they arrive, enabling them to immediately be interested and attracted to play. The wide range of toys and games enables all children to have some choice in their activity. Good quality books are available and are used by all ages of children. For example, the baby enjoys the closeness of sitting on the childminder's lap to enjoy a board book. With encouragement from the childminder the baby vocalises as the childminder identifies the creatures on each page.

Older children play games, undertake creative activities, including singing and dancing, and cooking activities. These activities all provide opportunities for children to develop effectively as they work and cooperate with others, increase their knowledge and understanding and develop their physical skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children play with the toys irrespective of their gender and undertake imaginative play, acting out different roles. They have access to resources which reflect positive images of our diverse society. However, they do not currently undertake activities which increase their awareness of traditional and cultural events. Comprehensive information gathered from parents ensures that children's individual needs are understood and met appropriately.

Positive behaviour is encouraged by the use of simple rules and boundaries. Simple rules displayed in the kitchen enable older children to remember and remind each other of appropriate behaviour. Playing games encourages the children to develop their turn taking, sharing and patience with others. Positive behaviour is encouraged, with the use of verbal praise and encouragement and reward stickers. The childminder talks to children about behaviour enabling them to understand why some is not acceptable.

Children settle in the childminder's home as she makes their parents welcome when they arrive. Parents are not rushed and so information is shared. Simple but comprehensive policies provide parents with clear information about the service offered, however, the complaints policy does not provide parents with the regulator's details.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder clearly understands the requirements of her registration and maintains all the records and policies required for the efficient and safe management of her service well. All documentation is stored securely and organised effectively to maintain confidentiality. The childminder's certificates are displayed to provide reassurance to parents and the childminder is keen to continue to develop her skills and undertake further training opportunities.

Children's needs are met very effectively. The childminder provides warm gentle care, demonstrating a good awareness of children's needs and how to meet them appropriately. Good care is taken to promote children's safety and health and to ensure they have opportunities to enjoy and achieve and make a positive contribution. The childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints 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):

- continue to develop activities to encourage children's awareness of traditional and cultural events
- improve the complaints policy to ensure parents are aware of the regulator

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