



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY302373
Inspection date	13 October 2005
Inspector	Sue Williams

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and three children two who are school aged and one who is pre school age . They live in Warsash, Southampton in Hampshire The whole house is registered but the childminder chooses to use the ground floor for childminding purposes

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently five children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. Children have supervised access to the family pet dog and two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from becoming ill because the childminder takes strategic measures to limit the spread of infection and disease. For example, she cleans the house thoroughly making certain all surfaces, toys and the toilet are clean. Children are beginning to manage their own personal hygiene. They know why it is important to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating and after playing in the garden or other 'messy play'. Nappies are disposed of hygienically and changing mats are wiped with a proprietary cleaner. Babies are handled with great care and chatted to while they are having their nappy changed. They usually hold a favourite toy 'as it keeps their hands out of the way'. The childminder explains to parents that she will not accept sick or contagious children into the setting in order to maintain the health of other children attending. She also informs parents if any of her own family are ill. She has a written policy to this effect in draft form. Written consent is sought for emergency treatment and procedures are in place for administration of medication. Children take part in regular physical play. They use the garden, go blackberry picking, visit the park and sing and dance to action song videos. Babies are encouraged to kick their legs and move forward to reach a toy or rattle which the childminder uses to interest and motivate them.

Children learn about healthy eating and have a balanced diet. Provision of food is negotiable. The childminder will either provide healthy nutritious meals or accept packed lunches which she stores safely. Meals offered are tuna pasta bake, spaghetti bolognese, butcher's sausages and vegetables, (broccoli and carrots are favourites.) Currently the childminder is in discussion with parents about creating a menu with their suggestions. She has asked each parent to contribute two healthy eating options prior to constructing a written two week menu plan which all parents will receive once completed. Mealtimes are a happy social occasion where children chatter and discuss foods which are good for them, talk about what they have seen when out and about and learn good manners by example. Babies are very much included. Their high chair is pulled close to the table ensuring they have a sense of belonging and inclusion with the other children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a bright and comfortable family home. The childminder has carefully considered how to maximise available space for the children's comfort, freedom of movement and safety. Children use the ground floor. This consists of a large lounge and dining room, a kitchen, vestibule and toilet. Patio doors lead from the dining area to the secure rear garden which is laid mostly to grass with enough concrete path for children to use wheeled toys successfully. Children extend their activities and play freely, moving from one room to another.

Children have all the facilities they need to be comfortable during their time in the

setting. The childminder has a travel cot, but babies and toddlers tend to prefer sleeping in their buggies while older children opt to relax on the comfortable sofas. The toilet facilities are clean and hygienic with potties, step and toilet seats as required. Children use safe resources which are of excellent quality. They are well maintained and stored where children may easily access them. Toys are contained in categories such as construction or table top games, soft toys or small world play items, babies' special box and craft materials. The baby toys which 'go in mouths' are regularly washed. The childminder checks toys to make sure they are safe, she opts for robust named brands often with kite mark safety assurance labels.

Children are secure and well supervised. For example, the childminder takes strategic measures to minimise accidents within the setting and on outings. She has carefully risk assessed her home and made it safe for the children. Areas can be gated according to need. The fire is never used when minded children are present and it has a guard across the hearth. All low glass is safe, the fish tank is toughened glass, sockets are covered and harmful substances and medication are either locked away or in high cupboards. Supervision of children is vigilant. Children are beginning to learn the safety rules. For example, on outings a child crossed behind the pram to walk on the inside of the pavement away from the traffic side. Older children know they must either walk in pairs or hold on to the buggy. The childminder has reins and wrist restraints to use if necessary. Children are protected on outings because the childminder takes a fully charged mobile phone with her together with emergency contact numbers and a first aid kit. An accident book is kept and parents countersign recorded injuries sustained in the setting but the childminder does not keep a pre existing injury book which records accidents children may arrive with. Children have supervised access to the family pets.

Children are protected from abuse because the childminder has a good working knowledge of possible signs and symptoms. She understands her duty as a professional child carer to safeguard children. She knows all the procedures and will take any action necessary to promote and maintain the safety and welfare of children in her care. Parents have access to a statement of intent about her duties to safeguard children and the procedures she is obliged to follow.

Babies and toddlers are learning the house rules. They watch and listen to what is going on. They know they must not touch the bins, the fireguard and parts of the garden. They are learning what 'no' or 'stop' means. Toddlers are learning to stay safe, for example, they are learning to be safe on the stairs and to negotiate these with care often by coming down on their bottom or backwards.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are involved and absorbed in their play. They are welcomed into the setting by the childminder who knows them well. Children select from a wide range of good quality resources. The childminder presents exciting and interesting activities for the children. For example, she makes jewellery and cards allowing older children to use some sparkly stones to make bracelets and necklaces. All age groups enjoy art and

craft. Children and toddlers are confidently exploring new materials and glue. Babies are always included as they have safe and interesting materials put on their high chair tray to examine and handle, they are involved and feel part of the activity. Imaginative play is popular. Children have a 'home corner' unit and dressing up clothes with hats, such as traffic warden, police and fire hats and helmets. Children can easily access toys, they confidently make selections and decisions. Younger children make their needs known and engage happily in play with the childminder. A child sings and dances without inhibition to an action song and dance video and then continues playing happily with other resources when he'd finished; the music playing quietly in the background. Children respond to adults' interest. For example, the childminder takes children to a childminder drop in centre where they meet and interact with other young children and adults, extending their social skills and understanding of the wider world. Children also enjoy visits to a parent and toddler group, walks in the woods where they collect items of interest to discuss and paint, and to feed the ducks. A trip to shop in the garden centre is popular, children especially enjoy seeing the Christmas items on display as well as looking at all the plants and flowers. Children sometimes make cakes and cook during holiday times when there are no 'school runs' thus giving them more time for the mixing and baking. Children are happy and settled and enjoy a range of stimulating activities and resources within the setting and on outings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children value diversity. A written equal opportunities policy is upheld in practice. There are no gender issues and all children have equal access to all resources. For families with English as a second language, the childminder will seek an interpreter for help in negotiating contracts. She has a garage with some multicultural figures and books promoting positive images of a diverse world but resources for this area of learning are limited.

All children are included in the setting. Children with additional needs are supported. The childminder knows the importance of early intervention regarding developmental delay. She works with parents and other professionals to maximise children's development and potential by adapting resources and contributing to individual developmental programmes to support the children.

The childminder has a written behaviour policy which is upheld in practice. She is aware of the children's differing levels of behaviour and understanding. Children learn the house rules. They are learning to take turns and are becoming considerate with each other. Children receive praise for good behaviour and achievement. For example, a child is learning to use the potty and beginning to wash his own hands. Much "Good boy and well done".

Children's needs are met through the excellent partnership with parents. The childminder uses her folder of information, policies, procedures and consent forms to make parents aware of her provision and the legal framework and support she can offer. If parents opt for her services, together they negotiate a care package and

contract to meet the individual needs of the child. This includes details such as likes and dislikes, what worries children and all the necessary information such as dietary needs, who is to collect the child and consent forms. The childminder values her partnership with parents. Information is exchanged daily on arrival and collection. The childminder seeks to resolve complaints in-house and will record the complaint, subsequent discussion and resolutions. Confidentiality is respected. Parents and officers can see how complaints are progressed. Where issues remain unresolved, the parents have clear notification of the regulator's contact number which is displayed alongside the registration certificate. Children and parents have both written and drawn thanks and accolades which are also included within the parent information file.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are safe and well cared for because the childminder is suitably qualified to do so. The childminder takes her role as a professional child carer very seriously. She has arranged her home to ensure children have ample play space and interesting materials to use.

Children receive good quality care because the childminder has a clear sense of purpose. She organises her diary to ensure ratios are maintained and children are given care and time to chat with her, to discuss what they see when out and about. She uses her time well, for example, she has obtained membership of the library and parent and toddler group. She arranges outings to local places of interest to extend children's experiences and understanding of the wider world. Her register shows actual times of arrival and departure. She works within the bounds of professional confidentiality and will not engage in gossip about the children and families in her care.

The childminder uses her records effectively. She reviews contracts and interacts with parents regularly to ensure children's needs are met. Documentation is clear and comprehensive. Information and consent is filed professionally and only shared with the child's parent/carer. Records may be easily accessed by the regulator and childminder and are stored safely in respect of confidentiality.

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

There are no complaints to report.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- maintain a pre existing injury book which parents countersign.
- extend resources which promote positive images of a diverse world.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk