



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111893
Inspection date	23 May 2005
Inspector	Judith Margaret Reed

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 1995. She is registered to care for five children under eight years. At present the childminder cares for one pre school child on a daily basis and two children of school age occasionally.

The childminder lives with her husband and four children aged from 7 to 18 years. They live in a house in the West End area Eastleigh, Hampshire. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder takes children to and from the local school and attends groups for children on a regular basis.

It is a non smoking household. The family have a pet rabbit and a guinea pig.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene procedures. They are learning the importance of washing hands after observing and feeding pets in the garden therefore risk of infection is reduced.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as they enjoy fruit snacks. They help themselves to drinks throughout the day whenever they wish. The childminder takes account of the wishes of the parents when offering meals and snacks to children that meet their dietary needs.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Children are able to access part of the garden for outside play. Garden games, visits to the local park as well as regular swimming trips improve children's physical skills. The childminder has good understanding of appropriate types of activities for all children and uses her experience to support them in their development, giving them confidence to try out new skills and to ask for help when needed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a safe and secure environment because the childminder is vigilant and aware of potential hazards. The childminder supervises children at all times as they move around and play in the open plan home. She also ensures children's safety while on outings by using appropriate equipment such as car seats and pushchairs.

Children are able to access toys and resources freely from storage boxes and shelves and benefit from making choices.

The childminder has all required documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a good understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy in the childminder's home. They enjoy laughing together and have fun. They are supported at all times by the childminder who provides a good choice of toys and activities. Children's physical, intellectual, social and emotional development is encouraged throughout the day. The childminder takes children out to the local park as well as music groups regularly, to support

development of physical play and social skills. She talks to the younger child to encourage communication skills, repeating words and developing vocabulary.

Children are offered many opportunities for creative play and enjoy drawing, painting and play dough, taking home examples of their work. Children's work is valued and their confidence develops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel valued and have a good relationship with the childminder. The childminder knows the children well and builds good relationships with parents, ensuring children's individual needs are met. The childminder uses plenty of praise and encouragement to help children develop an understanding of good behaviour. She remains calm and offers alternative activities to children who exhibit challenging behaviour. Children develop a sense of belonging and the childminder encourages them to talk about their day and future activities. The childminder keeps parents informed about the activities of younger children through a daily diary which includes photographs of the child. Parents value this information and appreciate the good communication which helps ensure continuity of care for the child.

Children are beginning to develop an understanding of diversity and the childminder provides some toys which reflect cultures from around the world and people with disabilities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease with the well organised environment, they are confident to initiate their own play and learning. The childminder promotes the welfare, care and learning of all children in her care. Most policies and procedures are used effectively, however the recording of medication lacks detail. The childminder has a clear understanding of requirements of registration keeping children safe. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was not registered to use her garden while childminding, she has a good understanding of safety issues and is now able to keep children safe while in the garden. An area of the garden has been fenced off while a shed is being erected and children remain safe at all times.

The childminder was required to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and to complete a suitable first aid course, as well as provide documentation relating to complaints procedure and emergency medical treatment.

She has completed a first aid training course and obtained necessary permission for

emergency medical treatment. Children are safe with her up to date knowledge of First Aid and necessary documentation is in place.

The childminder has updated her knowledge of child protection matters and has relevant information stored securely. This ensures children's welfare is safeguarded at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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):

- obtain written permission to administer medication, as well as signature of acknowledgement following administration

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