



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112154
Inspection date	07 October 2005
Inspector	Judith Reed
Type of inspection	Integrated
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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are outstanding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with his wife and two school age children in the Warsash area of Hampshire. The whole of the house is registered for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under 8 years at any one time and is currently minding two children under 5 years all day and several children over 5 years before and after school. He works closely with his wife who is also registered as a childminder. The childminder walks to and from local schools to take and collect children. He helps to run a local toddler group and attends a music group as well as the local library on a regular basis. The family has a pet cat.

The childminder is part of an approved childminding network and is currently in receipt of funding for nursery education for one child aged 3 years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a healthy and nutritious diet. They have a good understanding of healthy eating because the childminder provides a wide selection of nutritious snacks and evening meals. Children make choices about their snacks and are offered a wide selection of fruits as well as drinks of milk or water.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene. They are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times developing their self-care skills. Most hygiene practices are very good, although the childminder does not use disposable gloves to protect children or himself when changing nappies and he does not provide individual towels for children. The childminder employs thorough hand washing procedures to prevent cross infection.

Children develop their understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of exercise as they go outside frequently, walking to and from school as well as regularly visiting local woods. Children enjoy playing in the garden on a range of equipment including swings, a slide and a small trampoline. They also benefit from the well planned outings arranged during school holidays.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a very safe and secure environment because the childminder is extremely vigilant and aware of all potential hazards to children. Children are made aware of dangers through general conversation and daily routines; for example even the youngest children learn to cross roads safely and carefully. Children are particularly well aware of fire evacuation procedures and the outstanding preparation, practice and discussion ensures their safety when leaving the premises.

Children are able to access resources freely, developing their independence. The toys and play materials are stored in very easily accessible low-level cupboards and boxes in the main lounge room. A wide choice of toys, books and equipment are available and children enjoy a number of different activities throughout the day. Children are very happy within the childminder's home as he has all necessary equipment to keep them comfortable and safe. Children play and move about easily while being supervised at all times when downstairs, because of the layout of the home.

Children are safeguarded and very well protected as the childminder is experienced and knowledgeable in child protection matters. He has an extremely good understanding of child protection procedures. The childminder works closely with other agencies to support all children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very confident and have high levels of self-esteem. The childminder has exceptional understanding of children's developmental needs and he participates fully during activities, encouraging children to join in. Children have many opportunities to develop a range of skills and progress well in all areas. The childminder uses the Birth to Three Matters framework to help younger child develop across all areas and children are very competent learners. Children help themselves to toys from the extensive range available to them. They play independently as well as in small groups, supporting one another. All children fully participate in exciting and interesting walks and outings. They are enthusiastic about wildlife and the natural world, learning the names of birds and animals, listening to birdsong and noticing changes in the world around them. Children regularly attend toddler group and singing groups and benefit from varied experiences.

Nursery Education.

The quality of teaching and children's learning is outstanding. Children are motivated and excited by the activities provided by the childminder. He has very good knowledge of the stepping stones in the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage and uses them appropriately to plan an innovative programme for children. Children's knowledge and understanding of the world is excellent with many wonderful outings to places of interest, including regular trips to local woods observing changes in plants and trees. Children talk enthusiastically about the world around them and examine objects such as twigs to increase their knowledge. They are very interested in the natural world as well as the local environment, beginning to remember and talk about significant things that have happened to them such as touching grass snakes and picking blackberries. Children are familiar with mathematical language and are introduced to mathematical concepts such as adding and taking away. Children enjoy books and are familiar with the way they work. They tell their own stories and act out scenarios using their imagination. Children look after each other and enjoy being together to celebrate various festivals such as Chinese New Year, Easter, American independence day and Christmas. They benefit greatly from incidental singing throughout the day, as well as song time using props to introduce familiar songs such as Twinkle, Twinkle and Hickory Dickory Dock. Physical development is excellent due to regular walks as well as outside play in the well equipped garden. Children particularly enjoy the "Stop-go game", listening carefully for instructions and pretending to move like a number of animals. Overall children make outstanding progress in all areas of learning. Record keeping is excellent and the childminder makes very good use of annotated photographs as evidence of children's development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the very positive relationship with parents and excellent continuity of care. The childminder ensures that all parents understand the necessary documentation which they complete. They understand the necessity of documentation such as accident recording and medication record forms. The childminder prepares individual folders for each child and parents are able to access these confidential files. Parents clearly state they are very pleased

with the standard of care provided for their children. The childminder is very well organised and is also able to be flexible when necessary. Both written and verbal feedback is given to parents daily as they require. Partnership with parents is outstanding.

Children's behaviour is very good and they show care and concern for each other. They help lay the table and prepare drinks at meal times. Children happily share toys and activities and understand the need to look after the environment. Children are reminded of the rules of the home regularly as they are printed on the reverse of their place mats. They enjoy eating together and good table manners are reinforced when necessary. Children are praised and encouraged throughout their activities and the childminder remains calm, talking in language children understand. The provision fosters children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. All their individual needs are met as the childminder knows them all extremely well and takes into account their unique characteristics. The childminder works closely with parents, carers and other agencies when necessary to support all children to a very high level including those with special needs.

Children develop excellent understanding of equal opportunities and diversity through meaningful activities and discussion. The childminder has a very good understanding of gender issues and children learn to appreciate anti discriminatory practices. They really relish celebrating festivals from a number of cultures, decorating the house and tasting food from around the world. Children have access to a large number of books showing other cultures and use many artefacts brought from around the world in their play.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very well supervised at all times and the childminder works closely with his wife who is also a registered childminder. All necessary checks have been completed and the childminder remains within his ratios at all times. The childminder is professionally supported in the excellent provision of nursery education by a network coordinator. The childminder is also able to support new childminders and advise them on good practice. Up to date and relevant training is valued by the childminder and he accesses all possible courses, conferences and workshops to improve the service he provides for families.

Children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment. They confidently move freely around the home and access the toys and equipment they require. The childminder ensures children register themselves into the premises, as well as keeping a record of all visitors to the home. Both childminders work closely together during school holidays to offer a variety of interesting outings and activities suitable to the ages of children present.

Children's care is enhanced by the relevant documentation which is prepared by the childminder. Parents happily complete accident and medication documentation as the importance is thoroughly explained by the childminder. Children's confidentially stored personal folders contain all necessary records and permissions. Comprehensive planning and evaluation systems are in place to ensure children make excellent progress in all areas of their development. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder was required to record any significant incidents relating to children's behaviour and implement a complaints policy for parents. A complaints procedure is included in information provided to parents and the childminder keeps a record of incidents.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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.

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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):

- ensure children are protected by good hygiene procedures at all times

The quality and standards of the nursery education

recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of nursery education are outstanding.

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