



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112875
Inspection date	13 December 2005
Inspector	Lynn Reeves

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 1999. She is registered to provide care for 6 children under 8 years and is currently minding 5 children on a part and full time basis. Children aged over 8 years are also cared for.

The childminder lives with her husband and 2 children aged over 8 years in a residential area of Hedge End, Hampshire. The whole of the property is registered for childminding, however, the minded children do not access the master bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The childminder is a member of the Southampton Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the risk of infection as they follow good hygiene procedures, for example hand washing at appropriate times. The childminder has daily cleaning routines in place to safeguard children from cross-contamination, for example keeping worktops and toilet areas clean and wearing disposable gloves when nappy changing. Children experience a range of outdoor activities which contribute to their good health. They enjoy regular outings to the park, dancing and walking, where they benefit from fresh air and gentle exercise. Their physical development and large muscle movement is promoted as they access the garden daily where they kick footballs, play swing-ball, ride on scooters and sit-on toys. Children follow a healthy diet as they are provided with fresh fruit and healthy options for snacks as a supplement to the meals they bring in from home. Parent's wishes are respected regarding children's dietary needs, which are then recorded on children's records. Children learn about healthy eating as they take part in cooking activities, experiment with raw and cooked vegetables and discuss their likes and dislikes. The childminder has effective procedures in place for recording accidents; however, parental permission is not in place for the administration of medication which does not fully support children's health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, comfortable environment, where toys and play provisions are displayed at low level in the lounge to encourage children to be independent. Children make their own choices throughout the day; they play and move about easily whilst being supervised at all times. Children are provided with a good range of play provisions, which are suitable for their age and stage of development, these are regularly checked for damage and cleanliness to ensure children's safety.

Children enjoy a secure environment where they learn to stay safe as they practise regular fire drills. Most safety procedures are addressed, although children are not fully protected as glass items are stored at a low level in the kitchen which impacts on their safety. Children learn why they should not run around indoors or climb on the furniture as they might fall and hurt themselves. When playing with marbles they are encouraged to count them before they start play and again when putting them away to ensure they are not left on the floor for little ones to put in the mouths. Children are made aware of dangers through general conversation and daily routines; for example discussing road safety issues when walking to school, being reminded not to run off and to hold hands. They discuss topics such as animal safety and stranger danger. When in the car children must keep their seat belts fastened until they are told to undo them to ensure their safety.

Children are protected as the childminder has a good understanding of the child

protection procedures. She is able to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of whom to report her concerns to.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a relaxed environment, which make them feel secure. They benefit from the warm relationship they have with the childminder and enjoy sitting alongside her to have a cuddle and discuss what they like doing. Children have many opportunities to develop a range of skills and progress well in all areas in a stimulating environment. They are able to participate fully, make their own choices and feel valued as the childminder takes time to interact with their play and learning, for example asking open ended questions to make them think. Children gain good self-esteem and confidence, the childminder builds strong relationships with the children, which contribute to their sense of belonging. She asks the children what they would like to play with and suggests ideas to ensure they gain new experiences. Children's needs are met effectively as the childminder has introduced the Birth to three matters framework; she adapts activities to ensure all children can participate and to keep them interested in their play. Children experience a range of activities, for example, messy play, dressing up, free-play, looking at books, watching the television and trips to the park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated as individuals and are made to feel valued and respected as they receive lots of cuddles and praise which promotes their self-esteem and belonging. Children gain knowledge of the wider world through discussion, topics and playing with a range of toys that reflect diversity for example, books, puzzles, ethnic figures and dressing up clothes. Children gain a good understanding of the local community as they visit the library and chat to the lollipop man and learn about the environment when they go walking through the woods and along the beach.

The childminder maintains a very positive approach in dealing with special needs. Children learn what is acceptable through discussion, praise and encouragement. The childminder has realistic expectations from children, consistent methods are used so children learn and understand consequences. Methods and strategies are discussed with parents to ensure a consistent approach.

The childminder maintain good relationships with parents, which ensures children's individual needs are catered for. Parents are provided with a range of information regarding the childminder's business and the child's daily routines at handover and collection time and via the written policies and procedures. This two way flow ensures children receive continuity of care. The childminder provides a vital role for parents as she attends school projects with the children on their behalf; they fully recommend her business as demonstrated in letters of support they provide.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are fully occupied and engaged with many play opportunities during their time at the setting. The childminder knows the individual children well and adapts activities and resources to meet their needs. Children benefit from a well-organised, secure and stimulating environment, where their health, safety and well-being are promoted through documentation, which is secured well. The childminder has the required child care qualifications to ensure children's needs are met and has introduced the Birth to three matters framework to increase her knowledge in this area. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has implemented procedures to ensure parental permission is in place for seeking medical advice or treatment and that parents and the childminder signs the register of attendance. She has also produced a procedure for evacuation and shares this information with parents, all of which ensures the safety and well-being of the children in her care.

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.

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 parental consent is in place for administering medication
- ensure all areas are made safe for children to access

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