



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	131249
Inspection date	09 January 2006
Inspector	Judith 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 was registered in 1989. She lives with her husband and 2 adult children on the east side of the city of Southampton. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of 6 children under 8 years at any one time. At present the childminder cares for a baby, 1 child under 5 years and 3 children over 8 years. The childminder walks to local shops, pre-schools and schools. The family have a dog and 2 cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they begin to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. The childminder follows good hygiene routines when changing nappies and wears gloves to protect herself as well as the children. Sick children are cared for appropriately and medication administration is noted as required. The childminder has recently updated her first aid training, however, the accident recording book is not available at all times. Children enjoy taking the dog for a walk to local country parks or around the local area with the childminder. They use the garden for physical play during dry weather and use the scooter, tricycle, skipping rope and play hop scotch.

Children are offered a range of healthy snacks and drinks throughout the day. Currently, parents provide packed lunches for some of the children. The childminder is aware of the allergies and dietary needs of the children in her care, ensuring they remain safe at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe environment where they use downstairs areas except when sleeping upstairs in a cot. Children are kept safe indoors by effective procedures and use of safety equipment. Childminder makes use of the available space both inside and out in the garden.

Children are cared for in an home where risks have been identified and minimised by good use of safety equipment. They are kept safe at all times by constant locking of the front door and are accompanied at all times when playing outside. Although the childminder has devised an emergency evacuation procedure for children, she has not recorded and evaluated any fire evacuation practice.

Children are encouraged to choose from a range of toys, games and equipment displayed and stored in low level boxes. The childminder ensures toys are safe and suitable for the age and stage of the children present. She ensures toys are cleaned regularly.

Children are protected and the childminder has an understanding of child protection procedures. She understands her professional duty regarding protecting and safeguarding children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are well occupied and enjoy a range of activities and games. The older children particularly enjoy playing games with the childminder, including maths and general knowledge quiz games. They play outside and frequently go for walks around the local area or to country parks.

Younger children also enjoy games and puzzles suitable for their ages.

Babies play with a selection of suitable soft toys and teething items on the play blanket. The childminder communicates constantly with the baby and talks to him softly throughout feed time. He is encouraged in his activities and helped to reach for toys. The baby and younger children also enjoy regular walks around the local area, to the school and shops.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are generally well behaved and are encouraged in their activities by the childminder. Children take turns fairly when playing games. The childminder keeps parents informed about any behaviour management issues through discussion at the end of the day.

Children receive good, consistent care as the childminder welcomes parents into her home to collect the children and talk about the day. Parents are made aware of the procedure for complaints, as well as all other policies. They complete contracts and ensure the childminder is aware of current contact information.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder has some experience of caring for children with special needs and works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Children benefit from using some toys which reflect diversity. They play with dolls and small world people from different cultures, as well as seeing pictures in books. The childminder is continuing to build on her range of toys and books which reflect diversity.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home in the organised and prepared environment. They have space to play freely and are taken out frequently. The childminder ensures she remains within her registered ratio at all times.

The childminder ensures that children are not left with adults who are not vetted and she has obtained necessary checks for family members.

Children are well cared for although documentation is not stored and organised appropriately to be readily available when required. Policies and procedures are used effectively and shared with parents, promoting the welfare and care of children. The

childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last children act inspection the childminder was required to: provide parents with a procedure for making complaints; keep a record of any incidents and share this with parents; and improve provision of equipment to reflect diversity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has given each set of parents a copy of the complaints procedure and has obtained an incident record book ready for use. She has obtained some items which reflect equal opportunities but continues to build on the range of toys which reflect diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- practice and evaluate fire evacuation procedures with children
- organise paperwork and records to ensure they are available at all times.

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