



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113961
Inspection date	10 January 2006
Inspector	Karin Lane

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 1993. She lives with 1 grown up child and 1 child aged 7, in Henfield, West Sussex. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five part time and four children before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family keep goldfish and a hamster as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well-promoted because they are cared for in a clean environment. They learn about the importance of good hygiene through daily routines, for instance, washing their hands after using the toilet. Effective procedures are in place to deal with accidents, medication and if children become unwell. Children have sufficient vigorous exercise, as they walk to and from school everyday and access outdoor play equipment when the garden is dry. Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents. Lunch is a sociable and positive experience for children. Their independence is developed, as they learn to use a cup appropriately and begin to feed themselves with the support of the attentive childminder. Arrangements for naps are well-met because they are in line with the child's needs and agreed with parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe because the childminder has identified and minimised hazards in her well-maintained home. These measures include for instance, the use of stair-gates, an enclosed garden and meeting fire safety requirements. Space at the premises is well-used and babies are protected from the hazard of small objects, as their toys are set up away from where older children play. Children benefit from a wide range of suitable toys and equipment, which are in good, clean condition. Children learn to keep themselves safe, as they are taught about road safety and to keep close to the childminder on outings. Children are well-supervised and within the childminder's sight or hearing at all times. The welfare of children is promoted as the childminder has secure understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy, confident and secure because the childminder is warm and friendly, and has built an excellent rapport with them. Stimulating activities are planned according to the age, ability and interests of the children and the childminder has good regard to the Birth to three matters framework. Children can easily access and choose from an interesting range of toys and equipment, suited to their age and development. Children are familiar with and enjoy action rhymes, for instance participating in rhymes such as "round the garden", saying the words and following the actions. Story-time is an enjoyable and stimulating experience for children. They choose a book and sit close to the childminder who includes the child within the story-telling. She extends the child's knowledge for instance, by talking to them about the story and asking what is happening. This stimulates the child's interest, encourages them to concentrate and extends their language and thinking. The

differing needs of young babies is understood very well by the childminder, who provides good resources. These include stacking toys, bricks and toys with different textures which babies can explore in a safe environment, which aids their development. Children's self confidence is enhanced by the childminder who explains new or unfamiliar experiences, which helps them settle well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are well-met because the childminder builds excellent relationships with parents. Communication is strong and parents are kept very well-informed through discussion and the written records of the day's events kept for younger children. Parents can look at a well-devised port-folio, which includes clear policies that reflect the childminder's daily practice, for example safety on outings. Although children with special needs are not currently cared for, the childminder has good understanding, experience and training to help her meet these children's needs effectively. Play areas are attractive and made welcoming to children as there are accessible toys and equipment, which are likely to attract both boys and girls. Children benefit from the provision of for example, photographs and dolls to help them understand about the differences between people. Children behave very well as the childminder has a quiet, friendly and calm approach. Children are praised appropriately and there is effective use of distraction. The childminder intervenes appropriately, for example removing and distracting a baby who wants to pick up pieces of a jig-saw which his brother is completing, allowing the child to successfully finish his puzzle without interruption.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children flourish because the childminder provides a good range of activities in a friendly and well-organised environment. The childminder maintains required paperwork well and displays relevant documents prominently. However, the childminder has not informed Ofsted of changes in circumstances. Children benefit because the childminder holds a Nursery Nurse Examining Board (NNEB) childcare qualification and attends additional training to enhance her knowledge and skills. Training attended includes updating her first aid certificate and courses on autism spectrum disorder and speech and language. The care of children is promoted because the childminder has good understanding of the requirements of registration and keeps up-to-date with recent amendments.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable, as there were no actions or recommendations imposed at the last care inspection.

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):

- ensure Ofsted is notified of changes in circumstances

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