



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	156442
Inspection date	20 May 2005
Inspector	Lorraine Wardlaw

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 1989. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in Oliver's Battery on the outskirts of Winchester. They live in a four bedroom house, located close to shops, schools and parks. Children have access to a dedicated playroom in the grounds of the property and the conservatory, lounge, bedroom and bathroom of the home which are located on the ground floor. There is an enclosed paved area for outside play. The family have a pet cat.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under the age of eight; she is currently minding four children under the age of four part-time and one full-time. The

childminder cares for four school aged children, part-time. The childminder walks and drives to the local school and pre-school to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Young children are developing personal independence as they strive to become toilet trained through good support from the childminder. Children receive cuddles and a drink when they are not feeling at their best which effectively meets their emotional and physical needs. Outside play on tricycles or walks to the nearby shops ensures that children receive a good amount of physical exercise during the day. Adequate sleep facilities and a flexible care routine means that children can rest when they need to. Children enjoy a very good range of home cooked meals at midday and particularly like cabbage and other fresh vegetables. Snacks are also nutritious and drinks are regularly offered to children. Children's good health is promoted through regular hand washing using wipes and the clean environment the they play in.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, bright, designated playroom with an adjacent outdoor area which is secure. The childminder supervises children well, and is aware of hazards which minimises the risk to children from accidental injury. Children learn to be safe when they go out walking by holding hands or talking about road safety. There is a good range of developmentally appropriate toys and resources, which the children enjoy playing with. Most toys are stored at low level for children to independently access and equipment is suitable for their needs. Children are well protected from possible abuse or neglect. The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities with regards to safeguarding children from harm and as a result children are well protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children become familiar with the routine of the day and settle fairly easily. They relate well to each other, to the childminder and particularly enjoy the social mealtimes they share together. They become involved in getting the bibs ready and help clear the table when the meal is over, which contributes to their independence. Occasional activities are planned by the childminder to support children's development such as painting outdoors but children mainly play with the toys that are on offer each day. Children have few opportunities to enjoy sensory play. Children experiment with fitting bricks and the train track together, but limited interaction by the

childminder means that their language skills are not being fully extended. Trips on the bus to the duck pond or a walk to the pet shop extends young children's experiences outside the home. During the school holidays all age groups enjoy bus and train trips to the New Forest and to the circus.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop a sense of belonging through the use of individual photo albums, which is a record of the children's time at the childminders. Children are treated as individuals and develop a positive attitude to others because they play with a good range of resources that reflect people with disability and other cultures. For example, children enjoy using chop sticks to eat noodles. Children learn good manners at mealtimes. The childminder uses age appropriate methods to manage behaviour such as distraction, praise and discussion which means that children begin to learn right from wrong. The childminder's relationship with parents and carers ensures there is adequate consistency of care. The childminder relies on verbal communication to liaise with parents over the care she offers during induction and at the end of the day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises the day to ensure children are safe, cared for and generally amused and happy. She gives children her attention and ensures that she keeps to her adult-child ratios, which helps children feel secure. Although a qualified practitioner the childminder has not updated her knowledge sufficiently to provide or plan exciting, challenging play opportunities for under three's to enjoy. All the necessary regulation documents are in place but the lack of attention to detail means that omissions are made which could undermine children's welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children she cares for.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that the childminder should obtain written permission from parents before administering medication, seek permission for emergency medical treatment and ensure that parents acknowledge the entry by their signature when medicine is given to children. A recommendation was also made to provide a range of resources showing positive images of disability.

The childminder has made improvements which effectively promotes children's health. Permission is now sought from parents before medicine is administered and emergency treatment consent is also sought from parents. Although parents sign the medicine entry, the childminder sometimes makes omissions in these records such as not recording the date or type of medicine given. The childminder has made good improvements in promoting children's positive attitudes towards people with

additional needs. Children enjoy completing a Balamory puzzle which includes images of children with disabilities.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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 satisfactory. 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):

- encourage young children to become skilful communicators by increasing their vocabulary and language skills during interactive play.
- ensure medicinal records are correctly completed.
- increase children's sensory/creative activities by taking guidance from Birth to three matters.

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