



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113221
Inspection date	01 July 2005
Inspector	Alison Jane Kaplonek
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 satisfactory.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1995. She lives with her husband and their two children who are over eight years of age. They live in a house in Hedge End, Southampton. Local amenities are within walking distance. All areas of the property are available for childminding. Children access a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and an accredited childminder. One funded child attends at present. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and happy family environment. Older children play an active part in keeping themselves healthy and take care of their personal needs themselves, for example when using the toilet independently. Children are provided with a good range of nutritious snacks such as fruit or bread sticks and have regular access to drinking water. Healthy eating is encouraged at tea time for those children who stay for a main meal. Well completed registration forms include information regarding children's allergies and dietary needs.

Children have access to a safe garden where they can practice their physical skills on a good range of equipment.

Children develop good physical control, experiment with movement and improve their manipulative skills during an interesting range of activities, both indoors and outside. They learn to peddle, balance and catch a ball and enjoy their games of football and visits to the park. They have opportunities to practice their control of tools and materials, such as tape, scissors and paint, during regular planned activities linked to the Birth to three framework and the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They can safely access the downstairs area of the house, the upstairs toilet and the fully enclosed garden. They are encouraged to take control of their own safety and learn to keep themselves safe, for example when talking about the risks involved when carrying and using scissors. They all regularly practise fire evacuation procedures with the childminder.

Risks are thoroughly assessed and as a result, good procedures and the necessary safety equipment are in place to ensure children's safety. Effectively kept records keep parents informed of any accidents or medication administered. The childminder has a clear understanding of and up-to-date training in child protection procedures, and ensures that children's care and welfare are of paramount importance.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a good range of resources and enjoyable activities by the childminder, although they do not always have easy access to these themselves. Some opportunities for child initiated play and learning are missed as a result. Children show an interest in what they are doing and interact well with each other for example during role play in the garden. They ask questions as they play and the childminder responds well, encouraging new vocabulary or helping them to count or recognise their colours. Planned activities are often adapted appropriately for the very young children who rise to the challenge and try to copy the older

children. Children are secure and settled and are able to form positive relationships with each other and the childminder. They confidently ask questions and request assistance.

NURSERY EDUCATION

The quality of teaching and learning is satisfactory. Children enjoy the range of activities and available resources although learning is restricted by lack of access to some. The childminder knows the children well and has identified some areas for development, such as confidence building and scissor control. She is continually updating her knowledge of how children learn.

Planning covers all areas of learning and focused activities are linked to the stepping stones. Although assessment records are kept using the Hampshire record of achievement, they are not used to inform future planning and children are not always appropriately extended in their learning.

Children are confident speakers using language to interact with adults and each other, for example when talking about the children in the photograph album. They enjoy using books and listening to stories. They enjoy using pens and pencils to represent their ideas, although they have little opportunity during play activities to develop their writing skills or begin to recognise the shapes and sounds of letters.

Children are gaining confidence when counting and enjoy using resources such as the counting mat to extend this. They are able to use directional language, for example describing the directions to the toilet. They look at the shapes of puzzle pieces and take part in a range of games to develop sorting skills. There is little emphasis on mathematics or calculating during daily, routine activities.

Children use their imaginations during role play and craft activities. They have opportunities to dance and use musical instruments. They explore colour when painting or using dough. They enjoy looking at the changes that occur when the seeds which they have planted in the garden, start to grow. They use information technology to enhance their learning and are able to complete simple programmes on the computer. Planned activities encourage hand-eye co-ordination and children are gaining confidence when using tools to effect change or build and construct. Children show an interest in the lives of others. They talk about their families and learn about the festivals and customs of other cultures.

Regular observations of children contribute to their records of achievement which are shared with parents. Overall, children make satisfactory progress in all areas of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are all looked after in a caring environment where they are treated with respect and their individual needs well met. They are all involved in the life and routines of the provision. They are provided with a good range of resources and activities which help them understand their own needs and those of others. For example, they have talked about the festivals and foods of other cultures. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is fostered well.

Children are frequently praised and are gaining in confidence and self-esteem. They settle well and are developing their sense of belonging. They talk with the childminder about the routine of the day, their families and events in their lives. Children are clear about the boundaries set and as a consequence they behave well.

A good partnership with parents has an important influence on children's wellbeing. Parents are provided with a wide range of information regarding policies and procedures when their children start at the childminders. Effective communication through daily diaries and a notice board ensures that they are continually updated about planning and routines. They have evidence of their children's work and can request to see the record of achievement sheets at any time.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled and happy in the family environment provided. They are well protected and cared for. They are never left alone with unvetted adults and in the case of an emergency, arrangements are in place for children to be cared for by another registered childminder. Children have access to sufficient space where they can move freely and safely.

The childminder keeps comprehensive records, such as a record of accidents, a register and details of any religious or dietary needs. She has additional agreements with parents and an extensive range of policies. This provides children with good continuity of care, ensures that they feel settled and secure and that their individual needs are well met. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that information was kept in a confidential manner and that the first aid box was not hazardous to children.

The children's information is now stored in a cupboard and the childminder has a first aid box specifically for minded children, containing only what is suggested on the first aid training course.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 that organisation of the learning environment enables children to access and choose resources and activities so that they can play a full and independent part in their learning.

The quality and standards of the nursery education

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure that assessments of children's learning are recorded accurately and used for future planning to enable all children to be correctly challenged in their learning.
- extend the opportunities for children to develop their writing skills, gain an awareness of the sounds and shapes of letters, and the concepts of addition and subtraction.

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