



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110746
Inspection date	22 February 2006
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 1993. She is registered to provide care for no more than six children under 8 years. She is also registered to provide overnight care. The childminder is currently caring for two children aged under 8 years on a part time basis. The childminder lives with her husband and two school aged children in the rural village of Clanfield, south of Petersfield in Hampshire. The property is within close proximity to shops, parks and schools. Children have access to areas of the home, and the front and rear gardens are available for outdoor play. The childminder attends special needs support groups and is a member of the local childminders support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a very clean and well presented home where good hygiene procedures are practised. The childminder has highly effective hygiene procedures in place to keep children free from infection; for example, not accepting sick children into her care; cleaning all toys and play equipment on a regular basis; wearing disposable gloves for nappy changing; and ensuring appropriate procedures are in place for the access and care of the family pets. Very good procedures are in place for those children who are cared for overnight; for example, they are provided with individual bedding and personal items to ensure they feel settled and secure.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contributes to their good health. They have access to outdoor play in the garden where they benefit from fresh air and gentle exercise and develop control of their bodies as they attempt to kick footballs and play on the trampoline. The childminder has a very good understanding about appropriate types of activities, and promotes a healthy lifestyle with exercise and visits to indoor soft play areas where children can climb, balance and negotiate obstacles. Children benefit from a well balanced and nourishing diet where they enjoy a range of fresh fruit and vegetables. Children are protected and kept healthy through the childminder's very clear understanding of procedures for the administration of medication and the recording of accidents. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure all children receive a unique care package to meet their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children access a secure environment where most risks have been identified and minimised; however, the wall heater in the playroom is accessible to children and impacts on their safety. Children are able to move freely around the home and feel safe and secure because of the high levels of support and supervision they receive. The childminder provides an extensive range of toys and equipment which are colourful, vibrant and stored at low level enabling children to make their own choices. These are clean, well maintained and meet safety standards. The childminder keeps the children under close supervision and carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development and abilities. Children are made aware of dangers through general conversations and daily routines; for example, they are reminded not to climb on the furniture or run around in case they get hurt, and regularly practise fire drills. The childminder has all the required documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted; and has introduced a range of comprehensive written risk assessments. The childminder has a very good understanding of child protection procedures; she could recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse. Clearly written policies and procedures are in place, which are shared and signed by parents so they are aware of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very well settled and happy in their environment, which is stimulating, exciting and interesting. They are becoming familiar with routines; for example, hanging up their coats and removing their shoes on arrival; and move from activity to activity with confidence and independence, choosing what toys they want to play with. Children thrive and enjoy themselves as they are provided with an extensive range of meaningful activities that are adapted to meet their individual needs. The childminder has a very good knowledge of how children learn effectively, and fully participates in children's play. The childminder knows the children well, and their likes and dislikes; for example, she gets out the dolly pegs to encourage the child to fix these around the outside of the box, constantly praising him and giving eye contact to keep him focused. Children benefit greatly from the childminder's strong support; she is affectionate, consistent and responds to their needs well. Good quality conversation flows between the childminder and children as she asks them open ended questions to make them think and do things for themselves, developing their social skills effectively. Children are valued as individuals; the childminder incorporates different methods of learning to ensure activities are differentiated to enable all children to participate in both group and one-to-one activities. Children are taken on outings to local amenities and places of interest, for example the park, woods and the Dinosaur Museum. They use the paddling pool in the warmer weather and the sand and water tray in the garden to use different media.

Children's senses are developed as they play with the treasure basket and use paint and playdough. They develop their small muscle control as they use the paint brushes, rolling pins and spoons to stir cooking ingredients. Observation records are kept on each child to monitor their developmental stages; and the daily activities and routines are monitored, reviewed and shared with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are fully met because the childminder takes the time to get to know the children and their families. Children are provided with a vast range of meaningful activities and resources that teach them about other culture, religion and disabilities. Children access toys that reflect diversity; for example, dressing up clothes, ethnic figures, books, puzzles and musical instruments. They develop knowledge of the wider world as they celebrate a range of festivals, for example, Chinese New Year, Easter, Pancake Day and Fathers Day. They learn about their local community and environment as they visit the library, local shops, Country Park and places of interest. The childminder maintains an extremely positive approach to caring for children with special needs. Comprehensive procedures and detailed policies are shared openly with the parents and implemented effectively. This builds strong relationships with the parents and effective links with other agencies to support children who attend with special needs. The childminder attends regular

special needs training to continue to update her skills and knowledge to provide the best possible care for the children. Children behave extremely well because they are kept fully occupied and know exactly what is expected from them. The childminder deals with un-wanted behaviour in a calm and consistent manner; she constantly praises, and gives the children cuddles and smiles, which supports their self-esteem and sense of belonging. The childminder gives clear explanations to the children in a language they understand and strategies used are fully discussed with parents to ensure a consistent approach. The childminder develops excellent professional relationships with parents, information is shared freely and openly at handover and collection time and through written progress reports, enabling everyone to support the children. Very strong links have been developed with the local schools and outside agencies to ensure consistency and to meet children's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from an extremely well organised, secure and stimulating environment. They are protected by solid procedures, which are implemented effectively by the childminder. The childminder has a good knowledge of child development and care for children with special needs. The childminder is very experienced and very active in updating her child care knowledge through additional training courses. Children's health, safety and well-being are promoted effectively because information is shared with parents to keep them well informed about the childminder's service and their child's activities. Comprehensive written risk assessments, clearly written policies and procedures, and high adult: child ratios ensure children's needs are met. The children are confident, happy and relaxed in their environment; they move freely around the setting, accessing toys and resources independently, whilst being fully supported and supervised. Children enjoy their time with the childminder because resources and activities are planned well and provide significant challenges. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the provider was asked to ensure a sick children policy was put in place and to ensure information is recorded about a child's routine when staying overnight.

Since the last inspection, the provider has implemented a sick child policy which ensures other children are kept free from infection. She has also drawn up agreements with parents recording the child's routine when staying overnight. These procedures ensure the care, safety and welfare of the minded children.

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 the wall heater in the playroom is made inaccessible to children

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