



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111001
Inspection date	15 March 2006
Inspector	Sue Stuart

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1988. She lives with her husband and 2 children. The family home is situated in a residential area of Hatch Warren, Basingstoke, Hampshire. Local facilities including a school and pre-school, parks and shops are within walking distance. Minded children have the use of the ground floor rooms, and two bedrooms for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children. Currently she is minding 3 children between the ages of 2 and 3 years old.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are developing good hygiene practise and are learning the importance of routines, for example washing their hands after messy activities, and placing used tissues in a bin after blowing their noses. Their dietary requirements are understood by the childminder who works closely with parents to ensure their individual needs are met. Drinks are readily available throughout the day for the children. Children make healthy choices from the snack offered, such as choosing from a selection of fresh fruit. This practice ensures they are well nourished and enjoy a healthy diet.

The childminder is a qualified first aider. Procedures for administering medicines and recording accidents are in place, this ensures children are appropriately cared for in the event of an accident or illness.

Children are developing a healthy life style. They benefit from regular visits to the local park and play areas where they use climbing frames and slides to develop their physical skills. In addition they have access to toys outside in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is supported through regular assessment of potential risks within the home and on outings. They have a safe, clean environment in which to play as the childminder has taken appropriate steps to minimize potential hazards, such as restricting access to the dog sleeping area with a stair gate. Children are protected from fire. An emergency evacuation plan is in place to ensure children's safety is supported.

Children are able to move around the rooms and outside safely. Resources are well maintained and are stored effectively to enable children to access them freely. Children have access to the fully enclosed secure garden, where they can use the outdoor equipment safely.

The childminder understands her role and responsibilities regarding child protection issues and is aware of how to protect the children if she were concerned about their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and self assured as they arrive happily and settle quickly to play with their chosen activity. Children have good opportunities to choose from a range of age appropriate toys to initiate their play. For example, children develop their ideas and imagination as they role play 'cooking' using a variety of domestic

equipment.

Children benefit from the childminder's encouragement and praise as they achieve a task, for instance as they draw pictures using a variety of writing materials. The childminder has a good understanding of children's developmental needs and uses this knowledge to offer appropriate activities. They are confident in her care responding with pleasure as she involves them in activities together, for example as they glue collage items to create crowns.

Their learning is well supported, for instance as children choose from a selection of books both for pleasure and information. The childminder engages their interests and encourages their language skills, such as singing and acting out the 'wheels on the bus' together. They have opportunities to participate in a range of activities, including attending local groups to access additional resources and meet with other children to develop their social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a positive partnership with parents which supports her well in meeting children's individual needs. Regular exchanges of information between the childminder and parents ensures that children are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. She implements their requests and will readily discuss concerns and issues which may arise in promoting their health and welfare. A diary of activities and routine patterns are recorded and shared with parents to ensure children's well-being.

Children develop an awareness of our diverse society as they use appropriate resources such as dolls and books. Their behaviour is good and they respond to the childminder's firm and fair manner and appropriate use of praise to reward good behaviour. They relate well to each other and develop good social skills, taking turns and sharing fairly for instance, sharing the fruit at snack time.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provide. She makes good use of her home and local facilities. The childminder's home is welcoming and child friendly, she offers children a range of appropriate play opportunities to meet their individual learning needs. They have access to an appropriate range of toys and equipment for them to develop their play.

All regulatory policies and procedures are in place and shared with parents. However, new information and regulatory procedures are not always implemented promptly, for example obtaining the Birth to three matters framework to ensure younger children's specific needs are addressed.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to gather written information from parent's about their child's welfare, and to keep a record of any injuries a child may come to her with. In addition she agreed to make more books available to the children at all times. The childminder has produced a comprehensive form for parents to record information about their child. Incidents are recorded correctly. The childminder has provided an assortment of books which are displayed attractively in a corner and are available to children throughout the day. Overall these improvements have a positive impact on the care and welfare of children.

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 complaint 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 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):

- obtain the Birth to three matters framework to help focus on developing outcomes for the younger children
- ensure all new information and regulatory procedures are implemented promptly.

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