



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112804
Inspection date	04 April 2006
Inspector	Amanda Shedden
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 lives with her husband and two teenage children in a house in the rural community of Southwick. She has been a registered childminder for 14 years and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years, of these, not more than three may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year. She currently cares for seven children aged from five months to 10 years.

The entire ground floor and one room of the first floor are used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The family have two guinea pigs and one cat. It is a non smoking household.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home, where they learn about personal hygiene. Daily routines are in place, which encourages children to wash their hands at appropriate times. For example, before eating and after messy play. They enjoy using local amenities and the garden to help them develop control of their bodies.

All necessary documentation is in place to ensure that parents are aware if their child has had an accident, or if any medication has to be given. Parents are aware of their responsibilities if their child becomes ill. However, permission from parents to administer emergency first aid has not been obtained.

The childminder has a good understanding of protecting children from infection. She ensures that her home and resources are clean and follows good hygiene routines when changing nappies, which helps to prevent the spread of germs.

Parents provide the meals for their children, however, the childminder ensures that when she provides snacks they are healthy and nutritious for instance fruit. Children are able to access drinks at all times ensuring they do not get dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, safe and secure environment. Children have safe and easy access to toys that are stimulating and challenging. Consequently, children make their own decisions about their play, which is very well supported by the childminder. Toys are age appropriate and of good quality, enabling children to make safe choices.

Children are safe because the childminder is very proactive in safety matters, including ensuring that children learn how to keep themselves safe both in the home and outside. For example, doors are fitted with safety blocks. Socket covers, fireguard and safety gates are all in place. Children are aware of the rules when out walking they hold on to the pushchair or each other when walking along the road.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted by the childminder's clear understanding and knowledge of the procedures to follow, if she has concerns about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminder's home as she shows to have a very good understanding of children's individual needs, giving them one to one support. She spends quality time with the children making them feel at home within their environment.

Children learn to become independent and gain good self-esteem through making choices in a positive environment as toys and equipment are readily available. They are given time to finish a self-chosen task, such as completing a picture they were painting.

The children spend their time playing with and alongside each other; they co-operate with each other and take turns with the equipment and share the time of the childminder. They enjoy a range of activities which encourage their creative and physical development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals, their needs are met due to the childminder's understanding of their needs. Children benefit from the childminder's calm approach to behaviour management. She ensures they are able to learn about their behaviour through positive direction, taking into account their level of understanding.

The childminder has a positive attitude to caring for children with special needs and she introduces children to the diverse world around them through her resources and planned activities.

Positive relationships are built with the parents; they receive individual feedback regarding their child's time with the childminder, this ensures consistency for the children. Young children take home daily diaries with them ensuring that their parent is fully aware of their child's experiences. Time is taken each day to discuss the individual needs of the children. Parents are happy with the care their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from a well organised home. They receive good adult support to help them feel secure and confident within their environment. The day is planned well taking into consideration children's routines such as free play, outings, sleep times and meals. The childminder uses a variety of methods to keep parents informed of their child's well-being, daily activities and progress.

All legally required documentation is completed, however, not all records and information relating to children's health are in place.

Children's care, welfare and learning is promoted through the childminder's knowledge and understanding of children's individual needs. This means that overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to improve the safety of her garden and windows. The garden is now fully enclosed and first floor windows are locked ensuring that children are safe whilst using these areas.

She was also to improve her recording of any accidents or existing injuries, this is now in place and parents countersign any entry.

Improvements were also required in the space that children had access to. Children now have access and play in both of the rooms on the ground floor. This has allowed the children a larger area in which to undertake activities.

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):

- request written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk