



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	131069
Inspection date	01 February 2006
Inspector	Karin Lane

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 was registered in 1987. She lives with her partner in Portslade, East Sussex. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and an upstairs bedroom is used for sleep. Toilet facilities are upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children under 5 years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends local parent and toddler clubs. The family has a pet dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder provides a clean home and has suitable arrangements for keeping pets. Children learn about hygiene through daily hand washing routines, enhanced by the use of liquid soap, paper towels and wipes. There are sufficient arrangements in place if children have an accident or require medication. Children benefit from regular physical play either in the garden, walking to school or at a local park. All meals which are provided by parents, are stored appropriately in the refrigerator. Young children are fed by the childminder using a spoon. Drinks of squash are regularly provided. Children's routines are met for sleep and meals, according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to suitable toys and play materials which are clean and in good condition. They have sufficient space to play in and some safety measures are in place, including an enclosed garden and the safe storage of chemicals. However, the childminder has not provided a fire blanket meeting current safety standards. She has not identified some hazards to children for example, access to an electric fire, the hearth in the lounge and the cords of a rotary washing line. Children could lock themselves in the bathroom as a key remains in the lock and they have access to upstairs bedrooms through open doors, which can impact on their safety. Children comfortably sleep in an upstairs bedroom, but there are insufficient arrangements in place for monitoring them. Children are kept safe on outings as they learn where to safely cross the road and the dangers of traffic. The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection issues. However, she has a lack of knowledge about referrals in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures, which limits children's wellbeing.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children experience a sufficient range of activities. There are plenty of opportunities to enable them to socialise as they are regularly taken to parent and toddler groups. Young children benefit as they receive support and attention from the childminder during their play. Children are stimulated and interested as they play with shape sorters, soft toys and simple construction. They play games of pointing to their eyes and noses. Children respond well to the childminder and are confident and at ease. They can access the toys put out for them. However, a limited range of equipment is readily available, as much is stored in a playhouse in the garden and in the garage, which limits children's choice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs, including those with special needs, are mostly met as the childminder shares information verbally on a daily basis with parents. She telephones them to find out information and to discuss issues, which builds on the consistent care of children. Toys and equipment are likely to attract both boys and girls, however there is a lack of resources and activities to promote children's understanding of diversity. Children are praised appropriately during play and the childminder has realistic expectations of how to promote positive behaviour, including the use of distraction and encouraging sharing through negotiation.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The care of children is somewhat compromised because the childminder lacks information on the requirements of the National Standards as she has not retained the documents. She has not ensured that all members of her household over 16 years are vetted nor notified Ofsted of their presence. Insufficient required documentation is held for some minded children, for example no permission has been sought from their parents for emergency treatment, car travel or outings. There is limited written information for some children including details of immunisations, dietary requirements and minding arrangements. Clear attendance records are kept daily, but do not always show when children have left for the day. A portfolio of useful information is available for parents to see, this includes details of insurance, previous inspection reports and a current first aid certificate. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection, the childminder agreed to increase resources to reflect diversity, and keep accurate records of children's arrival and departure times.

The childminder has not provided any additional resources to reflect diversity; this limits how children learn about the differences between people.

Records of attendance clearly show when children arrive each day, however when children are taken to school this is not recorded. This is not an accurate record of who is being cared for at any one time.

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 complaints record may contain complaints other than those

made to Ofsted.

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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 hazards are identified & minimised to protect children and that arrangements are in place to effectively monitor them whilst sleeping upstairs.
- extend knowledge and understanding of local child protection procedures.
- ensure a fire blanket which meets BS EN safety standards is provided.
- extend knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities and increase resources to support children's learning about diversity.
- ensure Ofsted is notified of all changes in circumstances and that all adults in the household over 16 years are vetted.
- ensure all required permissions and details of minding arrangements with parents are in place and up-dated as necessary.

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