



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 110782
Inspection date 30 June 2005
Inspector Anne Munro

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 1994. She lives with her three school-aged children in a house in the village of Hordle. Shops, parks and schools are nearby. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with facilities for sleeping upstairs. There is a secure garden for outside play. A cat is the family pet.

The childminder is registered to accept up to six children under eight years old and may care for more when working with an assistant. She is currently caring for six children on part-time arrangements.

The childminder attends the local carer and toddler group on a regular basis and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from infection by the childminder's use of good hygiene procedures. They learn to wash their hands and are encouraged to be independent in their personal care. They enjoy healthy physical exercise playing in the garden and going for walks in the park and on the beach. The childminder respects parents' wishes regarding their children's diet and is experienced in dealing with allergies and special diets. Children have access to drinks at all times and their individual preferences are addressed. They are able to sleep comfortably in a travel cot or buggy in a quiet room. The childminder is sensitive to the needs of sick children and has effective procedures in place to support children in the event of illness or injury.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to move confidently around a safe environment because the childminder has identified risks and introduced precautions, such as safety film on glass, to ensure their safety. They have easy access to an extensive range of good quality toys and equipment which is well maintained and regularly updated. Their welfare is supported by the childminder's current first aid qualification and knowledge of child protection procedures, although she has no recent child protection training. She is conscientious about maintaining accurate records, shared with parents, in order to ensure consistency in children's care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy with the childminder and show good levels of confidence and developing independence. They are relaxed and comfortable in their relationship with the childminder and secure in familiar routines. They are interested in the range of activities which the childminder prepares to meet their individual needs, and are able to choose from a good selection of appropriate toys and games. They enjoy daily outings such as visits to the park or beach and opportunities to play with other children at a parent and toddler group. The childminder ensures that children benefit from a good balance of active and quiet activities, indoors and out, and have time to rest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and the childminder respects their individuality, having good knowledge of their family backgrounds and individual needs. She works closely with parents and uses advice from other professionals to promote the development of children with special needs. Children develop independence in choosing toys and activities and play with a good range of resources that reflect positive images of other cultures. They are well behaved, understanding firm and consistent boundaries. The childminder uses praise and encouragement to re-inforce their good behaviour and promote their self-esteem. She forms good working relationships with parents, exchanging information daily so that she has sound knowledge of children's needs and children benefit from consistency and continuity.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from good levels of supervision and individual attention. They play confidently in a well-organised environment with plenty of space to play inside and out. The childminder is very experienced in childcare and has effective procedures in place to safeguard children and promote their development. She maintains accurate records to ensure that she has all the necessary information to meet children's needs. She understands the importance of confidentiality and stores information securely.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to "develop information shared with parents" and "ensure all documentation is accurately maintained". Both issues have been effectively addressed, and all required documentation is in place and discussed with parents when contracts are signed. The childminder was also required to "develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues". She has acquired information about local authority procedures and shared it with parents, but has not yet been able to attend any training, so this issue is carried forward.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- further develop knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures.

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