



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	113312
Inspection date	16 June 2005
Inspector	Debbie Davies

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 was registered in 1996. She lives with her husband and three children aged five, thirteen and fifteen in Alresford, Hampshire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

There are currently twelve children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local childminding group. The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy regular exercise, which helps keep them fit and healthy. For example, they benefit from walking to and from school and playing in the local park. Children enjoy playing catch, ball games and climbing on the large apparatus in the garden. This ensures that children are getting a good balance of activities, promoting a more active child.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained home as the childminder has a good awareness of health and hygiene issues. For example, when changing nappies she consistently wears disposable gloves and cleans the changing mat after each use, which sustains high levels of hygiene and helps to prevent the spread of infection. Children develop their self-care skills by learning the importance of washing their hands before meals and by putting on bibs to help keep their clothes clean. This shows that they have a good understanding of simple health and hygiene practices.

Children are encouraged to eat a healthy and balanced diet as the childminder provides good nutritious meals to include pasta, vegetables and meat. Children have the opportunity to make their own sandwiches from a good variety of healthy options such as cheese, eggs, ham and fish. They also help themselves to fresh fruit from a bowl in the lounge, enabling children to self-select. Children have access to fresh drinking water on a regular basis. They learn the importance of sitting still when drinking which encourages independent.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have sufficient, safe and suitable toys, resources and equipment. They have access to small tables and chairs, promoting independence. Toys and equipment conform to safety standards. Children only have access to resources that are suitable for their ages and stages of development. For example, the large climbing frame in the garden is inaccessible to younger children as the childminder has blocked off the ladder. This enables children to play in a safe and secure environment.

Children develop a good awareness of keeping themselves safe, for example, they learn to sit on chairs properly at the table when eating. By the telephone there is a written emergency procedure giving them clear instructions on how to contact the emergency services. Fire appliances are in place and children have undertaken a fire drill, however, there is no record of this taking place, which, could lead to some children missing the opportunity to practice.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues having completed the Advanced Child Protection training course. She has clear policies and

procedures in place, which safeguards and promotes children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a caring attitude and is aware of the need to provide activities that are stimulating, challenging and fun to ensure that children progress in all areas of development.

Children have plenty of opportunity to be creative, explore and to use their imaginations. For example, when children are looking at books the childminder asks them about the story encouraging them to use their imaginations. She extends this by asking what colour the flowers are and what noise the ducks make. Children particularly enjoy stories about the steam trains as they often go for walks to explore the local station to see real steam trains in action. They enjoy being creative, making wonderful coloured patterns on paper plates. This advances children's language skills and supports children's learning.

Older children have access to a good selection of after school activities. Before going to school they select two activities from a pack of cards, this was mini bowling and a balloon-ball game. Each card gives instructions on how to play the game, materials, and resources needed to complete these tasks. The childminder ensures that these resources are available for when the children come home from school. As a result, children feel valued and motivated.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children sit and eat their meals as a family and older children are good role models to children who find it difficult to sit still and eat their food properly, promoting a clear sense of belonging.

Children have access to a suitable range of resources promoting positive images and the wider world through books, a map of Europe and television programmes. The childminder promotes equality of opportunity with the children, for example, they watch a team of girls playing in a football match, which enhances their experiences. Children have the opportunity to learn and explore the community by going on bus trips and talking about their surroundings for example, the wildlife, flowers and smells that surround them when walking home from school. The childminder uses these to help prompt further discussions and provide children with a rich source of interesting learning material.

Children behave well as the childminder sets reasonable and realistic limits taking into account children's level of understanding, however, older children would benefit from setting their own 'house rules' promoting self-discipline. Children learn to share and take turns when playing their games and are polite and respectful to one another, which, the childminder praises and encourages, building children's

self-esteem.

Parents develop good open relationships with the childminder who encourages discussion on all aspects of their child's care and progress on a regular basis.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder makes good use of the available space and organises the children's routine well by planning activities, outings, rest and quiet times within her daily programme. Because of this, children feel secure and confident. Ratio's are maintained at all times, providing children with good support.

Information, records and policies are relevant and kept to a good standard, promoting children's welfare at all times. Regular informal discussions with parents ensure continuity of care for all children who attend. This means that, overall; the childminder meets the needs of the range of the children in her care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to keep a daily attendance register. This is now being completed. She was also asked to improve the safety of the premises. Childminder now ensures that a full risk assessment is carried out prior to children attending, helping to promote children's well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?
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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 that fire drills are recorded

- ensure that children are involved in setting house rules

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