



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	150849
Inspection date	23 March 2006
Inspector	Lisa, Marie Ellis

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 has been registered since 2000. She is currently minding 3 children under 8 and 4 children aged over 8 years. The childminder lives with her husband and their 3 children, of which 1 is aged under 8 years. They live in a residential area of Fareham, Hampshire. The house is within walking distance to the local school, pre-school, shops and park. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family have a range of pets. There were no minded children present during the inspection.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted as they have access to anti-bacterial soap and are encouraged to wash their hands before eating and after toileting. The childminder stores her first aid kit accessibly to ensure children can be treated appropriately if they have an accident in her care. However, she has not obtained written consent from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

Children's dietary needs are met as the parents supply all meals and snacks. The childminder ensures children do not dehydrate as she provides them with regular drinks and fresh fruit if they are hungry.

Children get fresh air and exercise on a daily basis as they walk to and from school with the childminder. The garden is used in good weather to further develop children's physical skills such as by playing with balls and using the swings and slides.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The safety of the children is promoted throughout the home and garden, for example, stair gates, socket covers and door jams are used to reduce the risk of accidents. There are written policies in place for emergencies and the children practise procedures such as fire drills to learn how to keep themselves safe.

Toys and equipment are well maintained and safe and the house is well organised to meet the developmental needs of the children. Aids such as child sized toilet seats and steps help the children to increase their personal independence.

Children are protected from the risk of harm as the childminder has a good understanding of the child protection procedure and referral system.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are offered a range of learning opportunities to meet their developmental needs. The childminder adapts activities to ensure all children can be involved in the range of activities on offer, regardless of their age and ability. Children are given a choice of activities which include arts and crafts, imaginative play, computer work and baking.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met via discussion with parents. The childminder ensures equality in the home by ensuring activities and resources are available to all children.

Children are involved in the setting of house rules so they can begin to learn the behaviour boundaries. Incidents of unwanted behaviour are recorded and shared with parents to keep them informed of any problems. Children are praised to encourage positive behaviour.

The childminder works with parents to help children to settle into her care. Children visit with their parents before they are left alone so that the childminder can find out more about the children's likes and dislikes. Parents are kept informed of their children's progress and achievements as the childminder gives verbal feedback on a daily basis. There is no complaints log in place although the childminder would direct parents to Ofsted if they had a complaint about her provision.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides by ensuring ratios are maintained and that they are never left alone with unvetted persons.

All of the required documentation is in place although not all of it shows the children's full names which could result in confusion. Paperwork is confidentially stored and shared with parents as necessary to meet the needs of the children. The childminder has updated her training to refresh her knowledge of paediatric first aid.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two recommendations were raised and one was raised following an unannounced visit. They were to ensure relevant car documentation is in place; ensure that children's attendance is recorded accurately and to revise techniques for dealing with unwanted behaviour.

The safety of the children has improved as the car insurance now covers the childminder for business use and their attendance is now recorded accurately in a daily register. The childminder now obtains parental consent for using time out to ensure they are happy with her methods of dealing with unwanted behaviour.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 there has been one complaint about this provider. It related to standard 6, safety and standard 11, behaviour management. Ofsted investigated this concern by carrying out an unannounced visit and as a result a recommendation was set. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 written parental consent is obtained for permission to seek emergency medical treatment
- ensure all relevant documentation shows the full names of children
- ensure a complaints log is in place

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