



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	114222
Inspection date	10 May 2005
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1984. She lives with her teenage daughter and adult son in Crawley, West Sussex. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, with the exception of a downstairs study. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five part time and one child under eight after school. The childminder walks to local schools to collect children. The family has six dogs, a cat and some fish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, comfortable environment and the childminder minimises the risk of infection by for example, the use of antibacterial cleaners and checking the garden prior to children using it. Children learn about hygiene by the childminder reminding them to wash their hands. Any minor accidents to children are managed appropriately by the childminder, although records are not always signed by parents compromising children's well-being. There are suitable arrangements if children require any medicines. Children are put first if they become unwell and their parents are contacted straight away. There are suitable arrangements if children need to sleep for example, there is a travel cot available. The well-being of children is mostly promoted by these arrangements. Parent's wishes about dietary requirements are followed and food provided by them is stored appropriately in the refrigerator. Children's dietary needs are met by the provision of healthy snacks, including fruit and whole milk to drink. The childminder ensures children play regularly in the garden and have access to vigorous physical activity on outings to nearby parks and playgrounds.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe by vigilant supervision and being within the childminder's sight or hearing at all times. The childminder minimises risks to children at her home by for example, fitting a child safety catch to the kitchen chemical cupboard and keeping sharp knives out of reach. However, the provision of the fire blanket in the kitchen does not meet British standards and may not be effective to keep children safe in the event of a fire. The garden area is secure and children can play safely outside. Suitable emergency plans to keep children safe have been devised. Children can access an adequate range of toys and equipment which are clean and in good condition. Children's welfare is promoted by the childminder's secure understanding of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Adequate plans for the day ensure children have the opportunity for outings and socialising with other minded children. Children are offered a sufficient range of activities for example, younger children can play with bricks of different textures and there are toys with buttons, lights and sounds which stimulate their interest. Older children who are minded after school, can complete their homework and have an adequate selection of activities to engage their interest. The small number of toys and resources available is adequate for the learning and development of the children currently minded. However, children's development could be further enhanced by

using the Birth to three framework. Children are happy and well settled, they are confidently able to choose from the toys laid out for them. The childminder develops a good, warm rapport with the children, who respond well to her. Children are given lots of attention and support, there are cuddles, smiles and the childminder talks to them all the time, encouraging their development of speech and listening skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are all treated as individuals and the childminder provides consistent long-term care for them. Although there are no resources to increase children's awareness of diversity, available toys are easily accessible to the children and likely to attract boys and girls. The childminder talks to children about diversity when the situation arises to help increase their understanding of others. Although no children with special needs are currently cared for, the childminder has good understanding gained from personal experiences of how to include all children, ensuring they are valued. Children behave well, the childminder uses positive behaviour management techniques, and there is effective use of praise. However, there are some unrealistic expectations of toddlers being able to share. Children play well together and are affectionate towards each other. The consistent care of children is promoted by daily discussion with parents. Children are secure in the childminder's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and confident in the childminder's welcoming home. Children are well supervised and given plenty of attention by the childminder. Previous attendance records have not been retained and a condition of registration regarding the number of babies under one year cared for has been exceeded in the past, having an impact on the level of care given to children. The childminder lacks sufficient information about minded children as not all written agreements with parents are in place. The childminder has allowed her public liability insurance to lapse which means she has not been insured to care for children. These shortcomings affect children's safety and well-being. The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course which gives her the knowledge and confidence to deal with any medical emergencies.

The childminder meets the overall needs of the range of children cared for.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection three recommendations were made; these were to ensure the outside play space is secure and that children cannot leave it unsupervised; that a fire blanket conforming to British safety standards is provided; and a memorandum on infectious diseases is available to refer to.

Since the previous inspection the childminder has improved children's safety in the garden by installing secure fencing. A fire blanket has been fitted in the kitchen,

however it does not meet current British safety standards and may not be effective. The childminder has obtained a memorandum on infectious diseases and improved her knowledge about what to do, thus promoting the well-being of children.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- ensure all documentation relating to children is available, to include the retention of records of attendance, written agreements with all parents and ensuring that public liability insurance is held.
- ensure a fire blanket meeting BSEN standards is available
- develop the range of activities offered to younger children, for example, by using Birth to three framework
- ensure that registered numbers are adhered to at all times

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