



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112048
Inspection date	18 May 2006
Inspector	Marilyn Joy
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 1992. The childminder lives with her husband and teenage child. They live in a detached house in a residential area of Totton. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding with space available upstairs for sleeping. Shops, parks and schools are nearby. There is a secure garden for outdoor play. The family have one dog and various small pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children when working on her own and seven children when working with another childminder. She is currently minding five pre-school and three school-age children jointly with another childminder. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and belongs to an accredited childminder network. She has completed NVQ3 in Early Years Care and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health and dietary needs are met because the childminder works closely with parents to ensure she has a sound knowledge of individual needs. Nutritious snacks and regular drinks are offered throughout the day. Children usually bring their own lunch and perishable items are stored in the fridge to keep them fresh. Children are involved in activities which contribute to their good health. They enjoy fresh air and exercise when walking to school and playing in the garden.

Parents are made aware of the childminder's sickness policy so that she can take positive steps to prevent cross-infection, particularly if children are ill. Good hygiene procedures are followed for example when changing nappies. Children are encouraged to develop good practices themselves, such as washing their hands. The childminder has completed a first aid course and has given careful consideration to providing appropriate care for a child in an emergency. However, the first aid kit has limited contents should it be required.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home environment which is organised well so they can be easily supervised. There is a wide range of indoor toys and equipment for all ages. They are clean and in good condition. Outdoor toys are cleaned and checked before use. Comprehensive risk assessments are carried out to ensure potential hazards are checked and minimised. Children are encouraged to develop good safety practices for themselves, for example when going on outings and in the home. Children hold hands or the pushchair when going for walks. They are given the opportunity to walk in front or alongside when they are able to listen to the childminder, follow instructions and the area is safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted because the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues and the procedures for reporting concerns. Good arrangements are in place for responding to emergencies and these are shared with parents. Evacuation procedures are discussed and practised with the children so they are familiar with what to do in the event of a fire. The premises are secure and the childminder has clear information about who can collect individual children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the relaxed and friendly environment. They arrive confidently and are familiar with the childminder's routines. Children form positive relationships with the childminder. They seek comfort when unsure and enjoy cuddles as they play and sing together. They experience a wide range of activities in the home and on outings. They have regular opportunities to develop their social skills and experience other resources and activities when attending toddler groups and childminder network meetings.

Craft activities such as painting and collage are offered. Older children select materials for themselves. They make flowers before they go to school. Children can choose what they want to play with. There is a good range of resources which are easily accessible and an interesting variety is set out on the floor for babies and toddlers to explore. Toddlers excitedly activate the musical toys and turn the different knobs and dials.

Children are encouraged to notice the world around them when going to the park and walking to school. The childminder takes books to share so children are happily occupied when waiting to meet others from school. There is a good range of books which children look at with the childminder and listen to stories.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met because the childminder has a sound understanding of parents wishes and children's particular requirements. Arrangements for managing their individual care are discussed and agreed when parents initially visit the childminder. Ongoing discussions and updating of records ensures the childminder is up-to-date with individual needs. Suitable arrangements are in place for supporting children with special needs.

Children demonstrate a clear sense of belonging in the relaxed way they interact with the childminder. They receive frequent praise and encouragement and clear boundaries which help them understand what is expected of them and behave well. Children are treated fairly.

Positive relationships are formed with parents, which contributes to both parents and children being confident with the childminder's care. Parents are provided with a good range of information, such as copies of the childminder's policies and responsibilities. Details of her complaints procedure are included, although it has not been fully updated to reflect changes in the regulations. A regular newsletter keeps parents up-to-date with current issues, such as children's activities and holiday information.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. A friendly home environment is offered where children feel confident and at ease. Space is used well so that children have safe areas to play and they can develop independence, for example by accessing the toilet themselves or choosing where they want to play. A welcoming information pack is shared with parents which outlines the service provided and how children's care will be managed. Most documentation and procedures are in place and maintained appropriately to promote children's well-being and development.

Children are sometimes cared for jointly by the childminder and co-childminder. Their attendance is clearly recorded, however, occasions when the co-childminder takes sole charge of individual children are not recorded, for example when collecting them from school. Regular discussions with parents ensure they are well-informed about their child's activities and daily routines. A

willingness to keep up-to-date through further training contributes to positive outcomes for children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure all documentation is in place and up-to-date. Children's records have been reviewed and the registration forms updated to ensure all the required consents have been obtained, for example parental consent to seek emergency medical care has now been requested. The childminder was also asked to improve safety arrangements indoors and outdoors. The plants in the garden have been checked and are now monitored to ensure children's safety, for example the honeysuckle is cut down before the berries become a danger. A safety fixing has been added to the front door handle to prevent children from opening it on their own and leaving unaccompanied. The contents of the first aid box have been reviewed and creams removed. However, the quantity has not been checked to ensure there is sufficient available should there be an emergency.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to report since the last inspection.

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.

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):

- update the complaints procedure in accordance with current regulations and, when working with a co-childminder, ensure attendance records clearly show who has responsibility for individual children when in sole charge of them
- extend the contents of the first aid kit in accordance with current guidance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk