



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 113323 |
| Inspection date | 31 August 2005 |
| Inspector | Penny Wood |
| 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 1985. She lives with her husband near Romsey, Hampshire. The whole of the home is used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one-time and is currently minding 7 children between the ages of 6 months and 10 years old. Children are minded on a part-time basis including before and after school.

The childminder drives or walks children to local schools and pre-schools. Children visit local amenities and a nearby toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy walks and visits to local play parks allowing them opportunities to enjoy the freedom to run around and play on large apparatus. Regular visits promote children's good health and encourage children to develop good co-ordination skills and build muscle strength.

Children are independent in their hygiene routines and good practice minimises the spread of germs and infections. Clear guidelines and policies regarding sick children ensures parents are aware of when it is appropriate for children to attend the childminder's home, thus protecting the health of other children. Children who fall ill whilst in her care receive comfort and reassurance until their parents arrive, supporting their emotional and physical well-being.

Mealtimes are social events for children where they all sit together and talk amiably. Children enjoy healthy snacks and a balance of foods at mealtimes. Information regarding children's individual dietary needs ensure they only receive foods which are suitable. Appropriate storage of children's packed lunches keeps the food fresh. The provision of regular drinks ensures children do not go thirsty throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children enjoy room to play freely within the home which is spacious and well maintained. Space is organised well with defined areas for messy and free play. Most areas are safe and precautions are in place to reduce risk to children.

Children have a good range of toys to select from, which are clean and safe. The childminder recognises the hazards that small parts can pose for young children when caring for a wide range of ages. Consequently, she manages the ages well and continues to give older children opportunities to play with complex toys while occupying younger children with more age appropriate resources.

At all times, children enjoy good levels of supervision and are encouraged to abide by simple rules in order to ensure their own safety. The childminder's knowledge and the systems in place regarding child protection issues protect children's welfare and promotes their safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are at ease and settled in the childminder's care. They are confident and play well both independently and with each other. When young children feel insecure, they know how to seek reassurance from the childminder and quickly settle back into

their play. The childminder values children's achievements and freely uses praise, to which children respond positively. Encouragement and reassurance during their play builds children's confidence in their abilities and their self-esteem.

Children co-operate and display good teamwork skills. For example, children worked well together when taking toys out of their packaging, each child having their own task and letting each other take part and be included in the activity. The childminder draws on her experience and skills to ensure that all children are busy and involved in their play.

Children are interested and enjoy the good range of resources and activities provided. They use their imaginations well and independently extend their play by using resources for dual purposes. For example, children spent time playing shops in a tent and then incorporated blankets and a medical kit to turn the tent into a hospital.

Children are developing good language skills and thought processes through consistent discussions between each other and the childminder. Younger children are encouraged to use their emerging language skills and respond well to encouragement by the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the childminder's attention and the time spent with them during their play and activities. The childminder shows regard for all children and adapts her routine to ensure all are able to take part in activities which interest them.

Children are valued for their individuality and experience a sense of belonging within the group. The childminder has an open approach to caring for children with special needs and recognises the importance of meeting the needs of all children in her care.

Regular exchanges of information between parents and the childminder inform parents of the care their children receive and equip the childminder with the knowledge she requires to be able to meet the individual needs of the child.

Children behave well because of the good strategies employed by the childminder. Children understand what is acceptable and are learning to follow clear rules for their behaviour. Reinforcement of manners encourages all children to say 'please' and 'thank you'.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has over 20 years experience of caring for children. She has maintained her first aid training to ensure she is able to provide appropriate care for children in the event of accidents or emergencies. She ensures she keeps up-to-date with changes within childcare by reading publications and information provided by government departments. As a result, she takes on board new initiatives and

evaluates her provision to ensure she is providing good quality care.

Good organisation of the home and resources give children opportunities to play freely and access toys of their choice. Documentation and records are also well organised, completed in accurate detail and up-to-date. Written policies and procedures inform parents of the childminder's role and her responsibility towards each child. All documentation underpins and reflects the childminder's high standards.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has made improvements.

Children under the age of 4 have access to a range of suitable resources at child level which allows them to independently select. Children enjoy craft activities including dough, clay and painting and have opportunities to play with a range of resources which promote role play.

The childminder keeps accurate records which reflect the times of children's attendance ensuring that all documentation is up-to-date and accurate.

Parental consent is now in place for the administration of medication to children. Information is shared with parents to ensure that they are aware of the exact time and dose of medication given in order to protect children's health and wellbeing.

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):

- ensure the kitchen is made safe or inaccessible to children

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