



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	111165
Inspection date	06 October 2005
Inspector	Alison Large
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 and one adult child in the Netley Abbey area of Southampton. All areas of the property except for one bedroom are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five all day and three children over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the Southampton Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children do well, because the childminder has effective procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination. The childminder's support and guidance helps children gain a good understanding of hygiene and they become increasingly independent in their own personal care. However the childminder's medication records are not maintained in sufficient detail as required.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example as they play on wheeled toys or on the slide. Garden games and regular walks improve children's physical skills.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as parents provide a variety of healthy snacks and meals for their time with the childminder. Children are offered fruit and vegetables daily and can access drinking water or a range of squashes throughout the day. The childminder takes into account the wishes of parents and the children's choices to ensure meals and snacks appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of safety issues. Children are cared for in a home where risks are identified and minimised. This means children are able to move around freely, safely and independently. The childminder is vigilant and gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety inside and outside the home.

Children benefit from the play space provided. They are able to independently select activities from a range of high quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards and are clean and well maintained. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises the children's choice of toys to ensure they are appropriate to the age and stage of the children's development.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example she holds a current first aid certificate and has a good knowledge of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children relish taking part in a full range of stimulating activities with the childminder. She knows the children well and makes provision for their needs. Children enjoy their play and are able to initiate and lead their own activities. The childminder interacts well with the children and joins in their play activities, encouraging their social skills. Children able to rest and be active according to their needs. The childminder has a substantial knowledge and understanding of child development which ensures children are provided with a stimulating play environment. This helps children develop high levels of independence and competence in the early stages of their learning.

Children are interested in an excellent range of developmentally appropriate indoor and outdoor activities. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of books, toys and activities which appeal to all. Older children are able to enjoy different activities from the younger children, which are more suited to their developmental stages, which ensures their individual needs are met. Children interact well with the childminder, they share stories and participate enthusiastically, which contributes to their developing communication skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children flourish in the childminder's care. All children are welcomed and play a full part in their day because the childminder respects each child's individuality. Children play well together, learning to share and take turns and show concern for each other. Children gain a well developed respect for themselves and others as they learn about the wider world.

An excellent partnership with parents contributes significantly to the children's well being whilst at the childminder's. Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents and they work together to meet the children's individual needs. Behaviour is good and children develop independence, confidence and self-esteem as the childminder praises and values their achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease in the well organised environment which means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The children's care is enhanced by the quality of organisation of the childminder. Indoor and outdoor space is laid out to maximise the play opportunities for children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

All legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place, stored confidentially and is regularly reviewed. Policies and

procedures are used to promote the welfare and care of the children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure her garden was made safe and secure. The childminder has since moved house and she has made sure her new garden is safe and secure, to ensure the children cared for are kept safe.

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):

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children and keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines given.

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