



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	112286
Inspection date	16 August 2005
Inspector	Diane Ryan
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.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1997. She lives with her husband and mother in the village of Rowland's Castle near Havant, Hampshire. The ground floor areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently

minding two children, one full time and one after school. The childminder takes and collects children from local playgroups and takes children to the local parent and toddler group and to the local park. The family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is clean and tidy and children learn and understand the importance of good hygiene and keeping themselves healthy. They are encouraged to follow good hygiene procedures, such as washing hands after toileting and before meals, preventing the spread of infection.

The childminder agrees arrangements for providing food and drinks with parents. Meals are stored appropriately and reheated correctly, ensuring the children's continuing good health. Children have good access to drinks at all times and the childminder encourages them to drink more in warmer weather, thus preventing dehydration.

Children have good opportunities to play on large equipment both at the childminders home and at local parks, developing gross motor skills. They go on many outings to the country parks, the beach, the forests and Petersfield Heath, encouraging them to contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder offers a friendly and welcoming environment for children, with appropriate space provided to enjoy a range of activities in safety. Sufficient space is available to ensure that the childminder can meet the children's individual needs in a safe environment. The childminder takes positive steps to minimise risks both inside and in the garden or on outings. There is a garden available for outside play, although the fencing around the pond area is missing in parts, making it unsafe for children. The childminder supervises children at all times and when out walking ensures their safety by adopting appropriate measures, including holding their hands and discussing road safety procedures. Children access age appropriate toys freely from toy boxes, developing their independence and confidence.

The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection and she is aware of procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child, ensuring she protects the children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of the individual needs of the children in her care. She develops sound relationships with them and treats them as part of her family, making them feel safe and secure.

Children are happy, confident and settled and the childminder communicates well with them. She offers support and guidance when required, building children's confidence. Children receive praise and encouragement and lots of hugs and cuddles throughout the day, increasing their self-esteem and making them feel good about themselves. Children make their own choices about their play from the wide range of toys and resources available, encouraging their imagination and independence. The childminder organises the days with a wide variety of different activities benefiting the children. These include a children's group, giving opportunities for socialising with their peers, and outings to the beach, the park and other outside venues, all of which teach the children about the area they live in.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides an adequate range of toys and resources promoting a positive image of equality, although images reflecting disabilities are limited. She encourages the children to acknowledge and recognise differences and similarities in other people. Children are valued and treated as individuals. Toys and activities are adapted to meet the needs of all the children.

The children behave well and the childminder uses appropriate behaviour management strategies according to a child's age and level of understanding. She gives praise and encouragement, promoting children's self-esteem and confidence. She discusses individual children's needs and routines with parents, obtaining relevant information relating to the child's specific need, including routines and details of any medication.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home, enjoy their time within the setting, and play confidently with the suitable range of toys and activities. Adequate use of space and resources allows children to become involved in and enjoy active, quiet and messy play according to their wishes. The childminder has a suitable understanding of the requirements of her registration. Her documentation is basic, although she records the arrival and departures of children, medication, accident and incidents appropriately. The childminder gives parents verbal information about her service and their children's days. The needs of the range of children for whom she provides are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection, the childminder agreed to: develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues; ensure that children have an

appropriate range of resources that reflect positive images of culture and ethnicity; and to obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and for transporting children in a vehicle.

She now has an adequate knowledge of child protection. She has obtained some resources reflecting positive images of culture and ethnicity and has obtained written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment and for transporting children in a vehicle

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 pond area in the garden is made safe for children.
- ensure that children have an appropriate range of resources that reflect positive images of disability

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