



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 114573
Inspection date 02 March 2006
Inspector Jacqueline Crawford

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 outstanding. 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 1993. She lives with her partner and 2 children aged 3 and 12, in a house in Worthing, West Sussex. The whole of the ground floor and some of the first floor of the house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 5 children at any one time. She is currently minding 5 children aged under 5 both part-time and all day, and 7 children aged over 5 before and after school and on occasional days. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local

carer group and toddler groups, and takes children on regular outings to the library, parks and the beach. The family keep chickens which are housed in the garden.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle and are extremely well protected from infection because the childminder follows excellent procedures and practices in all areas of her provision. All children receive a unique package of care which ensures their individual health and dietary needs are fully met. Children are developing a sound understanding of good health and hygiene practices through extremely good daily routines and from the admirable role model of the childminder. For example, children learn the importance of washing hands after toilet visits, using separate towels and by brushing their teeth after meals.

Children benefit from the childminder's strong knowledge and understanding of healthy eating and the provision of home produced organic food. Children learn about the importance of a healthy diet, through discussions with the childminder and as they help to collect eggs and grow vegetables. Children enjoy an excellent range of nutritious snacks and freshly prepared dishes which include the home produced food and fresh fruit. The childminder's extremely good understanding of food hygiene and safety, ensures baby food and packed lunches provided by parents are appropriately stored and served.

Children enjoy plenty of fresh air and physical activity during daily outings and outdoor play. The excellent provision of stimulating resources and equipment enable children to effectively develop their physical skills, control and co-ordination in their play. Children sleep and relax according to their needs in safe and comfortable surroundings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. The childminder is vigilant about children's safety at all times. She uses her well-implemented policies and procedures, effective risk assessment and safety checks to identify and reduce potential hazards. For example, children are safeguarded by practising emergency evacuation procedures, in which the childminder uses reassuring methods to enable children to understand instructions and to remain confident.

Children benefit from an excellent range of high quality toys and equipment, which are well maintained and kept in a clean and safe condition. Top priority is given to children's safety on outings and when travelling in the car, equipment such as children's safety seats are correctly fitted and meet recommended safety standards. Children are developing a strong awareness of keeping themselves safe and

avoiding accidental injury. For example, under the excellent guidance of the childminder children learn the importance of road safety on outings and to use equipment such as scissors appropriately and safely. The effective organisation and storage of resources ensures small toys and items do not pose a hazard to babies and very young children.

Children are extremely well protected because the childminder fully understands her role in child protection. She has a well written policy which is shared with parents, and a secure knowledge of appropriate procedures to put into practice if necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well cared for in a vibrant, stimulating and caring environment. The exceptional skills of the childminder and the extensive range of play opportunities and activities provided, enable children to make extremely good progress in their learning and personal development. The childminder uses her knowledge of the Foundation Stage and Birth to three matters to extend activities effectively, and to provide considerable opportunities for all children to enjoy a full range of imaginative learning and play experiences.

Children benefit from the excellent range of toys, resources and heuristic play materials. Babies enjoy treasure baskets and activities which enable them to develop their senses and interact with other children. The childminder provides exciting opportunities for all children to enjoy imaginative and meaningful play which allows them to develop their ideas, for instance making a car to use in role play from a large box. Activities take into account children's individual interests and are effectively displayed for children on the visual timetable. For example, children enjoy books and stories which relate to their special interests on World Book Day. Children have excellent opportunities to find out about the natural world. They discover how food is produced by being able to help the childminder grow and harvest vegetables from the allotment and to collect eggs from the chickens in the garden.

Children are extremely well settled and enjoy a full sense of enjoyment and achievement. The excellent interaction throughout the provision, contributes considerably towards the warm and trusting relationships between the childminder and the children. The childminder has an excellent understanding of children's emotional wellbeing and their individual preferences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely well supported and cared for because the childminder is thoroughly aware of children's individual and additional needs. All children receive a warm welcome and are fully included in the life of the setting. Children show a true sense of belonging and of feeling part of the family; they benefit from the extremely good partnership the childminder has with their parents. Parents receive

comprehensive information about the provision and their children's progress and daily care. For example, daily discussions and information sheets specifically tailored for each child, ensure parents are kept fully informed. Parents particularly appreciate the stimulating and homely environment and the excellent links between home and the provision.

Children learn to understand responsible behaviour, simple rules and boundaries which are appropriate to their level of development. The childminder's calm and sensitive approach and her effective behaviour management techniques, encourage children to share and take turns and to learn the importance of good manners and social courtesy.

Children have excellent opportunities to choose and to make decisions in their play and learning, because of the excellent balance of resources and provision of stimulating and well planned activities. Children's confidence and self-esteem is effectively developed because their achievements are highly valued. Children understand that their contribution is important through the effective use of photos, displays of children's work and the excellent visual timetable. Children are becoming aware of their own needs and the needs of others by being helpful and supportive to each other. They have excellent opportunities to develop their independence and delight in ventures such as helping to grow and harvest vegetables. The extremely good range of activities and resources enable children to become fully aware of diversity and the world around them.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the childminder's professional approach, her motivation and exceptional organisational skills. The excellent organisation of the provision ensures maximum play and learning opportunities for children. The childminder develops her good practice by keeping up-to-date with current practice and through personal development and further training. She plans an effective activity programme which helps children to learn through play by referring to the curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage and Birth to three matters.

The childminder has high regard for the wellbeing of all children in her care. She keeps clear and accurate records and maintains all of the legally required documentation which contributes to children's welfare and safety. The childminder's effective planning and well implemented policies and procedures work extremely successfully in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and their ability to make a positive contribution.

The provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was made to include the address and telephone number of Ofsted on the complaint procedure.

The childminder now provides these additional details on the complaints procedure and displays the Ofsted poster in the setting to inform parents, thus ensuring children are safeguarded.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted 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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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