



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	143213
Inspection date	25 April 2006
Inspector	Lilyanne Taylor
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 registered in 1989. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in a mid terraced property in the Southsea area of Portsmouth. There is an enclosed safe and secure garden for outside play and schools, parks and shops are nearby. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding six children on a part time basis. The childminder holds an NVQ level 3 certificate in child care and education and is a member of the local childminding network group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the spread of infection through the effective procedures and practices the childminder has in place. Children learn about their own personal hygiene through

daily routines and they each have their own flannel and towel. Children's health is well protected by the procedures in place for administering medication and dealing with injuries. Younger children are able to sleep and rest according to their needs. The childminder ensures children are taken out in the fresh air each day so they experience and enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities which aids their physical development. For example, they have regular opportunities to use large equipment, such as a slide and swing, when they visit the local play park and they go on walks around the local area visiting the canoe lake and beach. Children enjoy a varied selection of nutritious snacks and have access to drinking water throughout the day, which ensures they do not go thirsty. Children's main meals are usually pre-cooked meals, which their parents provide from home. The childminder stores them in the refrigerator then re-cooks them in the microwave prior to serving them to children. However, she does not find out how food has been stored prior to her receiving it, or use a temperature probe to ensure meals are re-cooked to a safe temperature. Consequently, the good health and well-being of children is not fully protected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a welcoming, spacious, secure environment. Thorough cleaning routines and procedures ensure the premises and equipment provide a safe play environment for children. The childminder checks all equipment and toys as they are used which ensures they remain safe for children. Appropriate safety equipment in place prevents children from accessing areas unsupervised and equipment used by children is safe and well maintained. Procedures in place ensure sleeping children are well protected. Written consent is sought from parents for all outings and children are constantly supervised. Records are maintained in detail to show when children are in the care of the childminder. Children can be safely evacuated from the premises in the event of a fire; all appropriate procedures and equipment are in place. Systems in place to cover the childminder's absence in the event of an emergency situation ensure children are only cared for by a suitable adult. Children are only allowed to leave the care of the childminder with persons their parents have authorised. The childminder has a good knowledge of the procedures she should follow if abuse of a child were suspected and a record of any pre-existing injuries children may come in with from home is maintained, shared and agreed with by parents. Injuries children may sustain whilst in the care of others prior to attending the childminder are not recorded. Consequently, children's welfare is not fully protected.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and well cared for in the childminder's home. They are provided with a relaxed, home-from-home comfortable environment, which meets their individual needs and makes them feel secure. Children relate well to the childminder and enjoy her company. She interacts with the children well and ensures their individual needs are tended to. The childminder praises children's achievements which raises their confidence and self-esteem. Children spend their time purposefully, they have access to a range of activities both indoors and outdoors which are appropriate for their ages and stages of development. They enjoy

having stories read and go to the childminder for a cuddle when they are feeling tired. Children play well together and socialise with other children through their regular attendance at toddler groups and when the childminder visits or goes on outings with other childminders and their minded children within the area.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are able to make their own choices of activities from the range of resources available. They are learning how to respect and care for the toys because they are encouraged to help the childminder carefully pack them away when they have finished playing. Children become aware of the boundaries and behavioural expectations of the setting through the clear and consistent guidance they receive, which is appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children benefit from the good rapport and working relationship the childminder establishes with parents. She obtains information from them about their child's needs which contributes significantly to their well-being. The effective two way sharing of information on a daily basis ensures children are: provided with continuity of care; appropriately supported and their individual needs met. New children feel welcomed and secure. They are able to attend pre-visits with their parents so they get to know the childminder and the environment in which they will be cared for. The childminder explains to parents the operational procedures of the provision and gives them a copy of the policies and procedures she works to which ensures the child's transition from home to the childminder's is smooth. Children settle well in a home from home environment and enjoy the childminder's company. Parents are informed of the procedures they should follow if they have any views or concerns about the provision. The childminder has appropriate systems in place for recording complaints and procedures she would follow include responding to parents, informing them of the action she has taken in addressing any views or concerns they have expressed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for by a suitably experienced and qualified childminder. The childminder has knowledge of first aid and attends various training courses and workshops to ensure her knowledge of childcare and child development is kept up-to-date. Most procedures and policies in place contribute to children's health, safety and well-being. The childminder ensures children are only cared for by adults who are suitable to work with children.

Children feel confident and secure in her company. They are able to move around freely and feel at ease within the well organised environment. Indoor play space is laid out to maximise children's play opportunities and experiences. Parents are welcomed into the home and kept well informed of the care provided for their children and the progress they are making. The childminder displays her registration certificate for parents to see and parents have access to an Ofsted poster which informs them of the procedures they should follow if they wish to express their views of the provision. Documentation that requires parental permission is sought for all children and most records are maintained as required. The childminder is aware the

information she holds about children is confidential so is careful to keep it safe. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to continue developing the range of food and drink provided and share menus with parents.

The childminder continually develops the range of food and drink she provides for children to ensure the snacks and lunches she provides are healthy, nutritious and complying with the dietary needs of all children. Drinks are readily available to children throughout the time they are in the childminder's care. Snacks consist mainly of a selection of fresh fruit and mid-day lunch is usually sandwiches that have a various selection of fillings accompanied with salad items. Parents are given a sample menu of meals the childminder is able to provide for their children if they so wish, however, most parents prefer to supply their own main meals for their children.

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 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):

- review the arrangements in place for receiving meals from parents and serving them to children to ensure they are healthy and re-cooked to the correct temperature.
- ensure a record is maintained and shared with parents of all pre-existing injuries children may have when you accept them into your care.

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