

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY264586
Inspection date	28 August 2007
Inspector	Michelle Ann Parham
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 has been registered since 2003. She is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently caring for 12 children who all attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder lives with her husband and child. They live in a house in a residential area of Bursledon in Hampshire. Local shops, park and Bursledon Infant and Junior schools are within walking distance of the home. The childminder also cares for children attending Longoak and Lowford preschools. The ground floor of the house is mainly used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family currently have a pet dog. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and attends a number of groups for children throughout the week.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from a very clean and comfortable environment. Their good health is exceptionally well promoted as the childminder encourages them to follow stringent hygiene

procedures, such as consistently washing hands after outside play, touching the family pet, after using the toilet and before snacks and meals. Children are provided with individual hand towels and wipes which contribute to very good hygiene practice. They confidently visit the toileting area independently and are developing excellent personal care skills. Children are well protected from unnecessary illness as the childminder has a sick children policy and they do not attend if they are infectious, therefore taking effective steps to reduce the spread of infection. Play resources are cleaned regularly and babies' equipment is effectively sterilized on a daily basis in the dishwasher. Children are cared for very well in an emergency situation as there is a well maintained first aid kit and the childminder has a current paediatric first aid qualification valid until 2010.

Children enjoy daily fresh air and exercise at the setting as they undertake lots of visits to places of interest such as the local library, community parks, children's music and toddler groups and school walks to Bursledon Infant and Junior Schools. In the rear garden they are able to use a very good selection of equipment such as a play house, slide, swings, sit and ride toys and play kitchen. During school holidays children benefit from exciting outings to Marwell Zoo, Blue Reef Aquarium, Moors Valley, Itchen and Victoria Country Parks and Manor and Longdown Farms. Consequently children have excellent opportunity to be out of the setting which has a very positive impact on their physical fitness and good health whilst also extending their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Children have their individual needs very well met because the childminder works closely with parents and has the required documentation in place to ensure she is aware of routines and individual health and dietary requirements. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious meals as the childminder is able to supply a healthy breakfast of cereals, toast and honey and wholesome home cooked dinners such as spaghetti bolognese and shepherd's pie. She also provides healthy snacks of fresh fruit, cheese and raisins and regular drinks of water, milk or sugar free squash. Parents tend to supply a packed lunch for their children which the childminder is happy to serve. As a result the children have their dietary needs effectively met and are well nourished and hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept secure within the setting as effective procedures are in place to prevent them from leaving the home unsupervised or with an unidentified adult. For example the childminder secures the front door and uses a high bolt to secure the rear garden gate. All necessary precautions have been addressed to prevent hazards, such as using socket covers and stair gates and ensuring hazardous materials are inaccessible. Fire safety precautions are met and an emergency evacuation is practiced regularly which ensures a swift and safe exit from the home in the event of a fire emergency.

Children are able to use equipment and the environment safely as furniture and resources are maintained and conform to safety standards. Toys are appropriate to the children's stage of development, ensuring they are suitable for use and do not present a hazard. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder has safety procedures in place, for example she ensures children are appropriately restrained when travelling in the car and use the correct seating. Children begin to learn about safety as the childminder teaches them how to cross the road safely on outings and as they walk to school. They are also beginning to learn about other hazards such as strangers and of the safety implications of approaching unfamiliar animals. The childminder has sound knowledge of signs and symptoms that could cause concern in

regard to child protection; she is aware of how to record and report her concerns, therefore maintaining the welfare of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children thrive in an environment where they have fun and enjoy attending. They benefit from good quality play resources which are stimulating and offer sufficient challenge. Children can access toys independently as they are stored low level in the lounge. As a result they are able to initiate their own choice of play developing their independence and responsibility. Children are becoming competent learners as they have a wealth of well organised play resources which are appropriate for their stage of development. The childminder rotates the resources on a weekly basis to offer stimulation and renewed interest. The children enjoy many exciting outings to places of interest and also benefit from visiting various children's groups throughout the week where they can participate in craft and creative play with larger groups of children. They also have the opportunity to participate in a swim session each Friday as the childminder hires a private pool. As a result children have varied activities and outings which contributes to their developing knowledge and understanding of the world.

Children's communication skills are developing well as the childminder has very good interpersonal communication skills. She gives children her time and attention, speaking clearly and making good eye contact. Children enjoy the company of the childminder and are very confident within the home. They chatter and engage continuously with her or their peers evidencing how they feel secure at the setting. The home is a relaxed environment where children are happy in their surroundings. They move freely and easily around the setting, showing a good sense of belonging and good levels of self esteem. Children have good fun and explore their imagination, for example as they pretend to be fairies and princesses using the dressing up clothes or as they pretend to make lunch for the childminder in the playhouse in the garden. The childminder has a basic understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and is keen to build on her knowledge by attending further training in October. This will ensure younger children are effectively supported and offered sufficient challenge to help them make progress and development in all areas. The childminder knows the children well and builds warm and trusting relationships with the family as a whole. Children have their individual care needs effectively met in an environment where they are able to enjoy and achieve.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children receive continuity and an appropriate care package, because the childminder uses child information records and close working with parents. Subsequently, she is aware of their personal needs, routines and specific requirements. All children are welcomed and treated as individuals, as the childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and awareness that some children have additional needs. Children develop a positive attitude towards others and learn about the wider world and community because the childminder has a good selection of resources that portray positive images of ethnicity and disability including dolls, small world figures, books and posters. All children are included and can access the range of toys and activities. They are encouraged to value each other, which ensures they feel important and included.

Children learn to behave well in the setting, because the childminder uses positive techniques such as discussion, distraction and positive reinforcement of praise and encouragement. Simple house rules and gentle intervention help the children learn about acceptable behaviour and right from wrong. All techniques are appropriate for the understanding of the child.

Children benefit from good partnership with parents as they are welcomed into the home to discuss the day's events and to share information as required. All documentation is shared and countersigned and parents are fully informed about the setting as the childminder displays all required information and has a comprehensive portfolio in place which consists of various policies of work practice. Parents are very happy with the care and service they receive and have provided some references which are highly supportive of the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enjoy a child orientated environment where they are occupied and engaged and have their care and learning needs effectively met through the provision of suitable play resources, structured activities and outings. Their health, safety and wellbeing are promoted because of effective working practices in place. The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of the National Standards and maintains them well. All required documentation is in place, stored confidentially and generally maintained. However, on inspection it was noted that the attendance of children is not accurately recorded on a daily basis. Written policies and procedures enable the childminder to effectively share her practice with parents ensuring they are fully aware of her role and responsibilities. Ratios are maintained at all times and children are never left unsupervised with persons who have not been officially vetted. 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 consider developing partnership with parents by providing a parent information pack which includes copies of policies and procedures, details of daily activities and information about child protection procedures. Also to ensure that all medication records are countersigned and time of administration of medication is recorded and to continue to update knowledge and understanding of a range of childcare issues, including behaviour management.

The childminder now provides a portfolio for parents to view which contains policies and work practices, including child protection and behaviour management, information about the childminder and her family and photographs of outings and activities the children have enjoyed. All medication records are comprehensively maintained and the childminder now attends training workshops to update her knowledge and understanding of childcare and is booked on the Diploma in Home based studies course from October 2007. Consequently these improvements have a positive impact on the good health and welfare of children, their care and learning, partnership with parents, behaviour management and organisation.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the national standards.

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):

- continue to develop working practice for the care of babies and young children by, for example, becoming confident and familiar with the Birth to three matters framework
- ensure children's attendance is accurately recorded on a daily basis.

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