



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY310500
Inspection date	25 July 2006
Inspector	Felicity Gaff

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 2005. She lives with her husband and school aged child in Crawley, West Sussex. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five and one over five who all attend part time. She drives to local schools to take and collect children, and attends a local parent and toddler group. The family has a cat. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from illness and infection because the childminder provides a clean and well-organised home. Children learn good personal hygiene habits and the childminder provides clear pictorial reminders for everyday routines, such as hand washing after using the toilet. There are good procedures to protect children from hazards associated with pets. Sickness and minor accidents are handled appropriately; parents are kept fully informed and the required documentation is maintained. Children develop their physical skills during regular outings to nearby parks and playgrounds for vigorous play. They receive nourishing and well balanced meals and snacks and enjoy discovering a wide range of foodstuffs for the first time. Parents are well informed about the food their children receive through the daily diaries provided by the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are able to play safely because they are cared for in a very carefully organised environment. The childminder thoroughly assesses potential risks on the premises and takes excellent steps to minimise them. For example, there are a range of original, purpose-built barriers to prevent children reaching hazards such as glass-fronted cupboards and electrical equipment, and all unused rooms and cupboards are secured with high bolts. Consequently, children are able to explore their play spaces in safety. The childminder provides an excellent range of high quality toys and play resources which are attractively displayed and readily accessible. Children begin to learn about how to look after themselves and others. For instance, they discuss with the childminder why they need to clear away toys with small parts so babies cannot reach them and undertake regular fire drills using different exits. The childminder follows good procedures to keep children safe on outings and when travelling by car. The childminder's basic understanding of child protection issues lacks detail. This limits her ability to safeguard children although she has already identified this as an area for development.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children flourish in all areas of their development as the childminder is a very experienced child carer who works extremely closely with children and their parents to meet their individual needs. The childminder provides children with a great deal of time and attention. She makes sure she knows their individual needs and preferences before they attend by seeking detailed information from their parents, and arranges ample opportunities for the exchange of both verbal and written information each day. Children enjoy an exciting programme of stimulating activities

because the childminder makes meticulous plans in advance. For example, she identifies summer holiday activities in the locality that would be suitable for the children and plans how to augment these by offering a balanced variety of related play opportunities at home. Parents are fully involved, and their observations sought on proposed activities, through the provision of detailed written information well beforehand.

Children develop their independence and confidence very well. The childminder understands how children learn from direct experience and allows them many excellent opportunities to do things for themselves. She provides suitable equipment such as steps and booster seats to allow children to carry out routine tasks independently. Babies are fascinated by the treasure basket; they explore the accessible play area independently and receive sensitive one-to-one support as they begin to find their feet. Children learn about the world about them and their importance within it as they participate in practical activities such as growing strawberries and assisting with simple household chores. Children concentrate intently on making models with high quality age-appropriate construction materials, persevering for long periods of time and developing both confidence and fine motor skills. The childminder provides an excellent language model and offers skilful one-to-one support. Consequently, children engage in extended conversations and begin to express their own ideas for alternative solutions to problems. Children's sense of self-worth is enhanced because photographs of their achievements are prominently displayed within the setting, as well as in scrap books and albums, and are shared with their parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an inclusive and welcoming environment where they learn to value themselves and other people. Posters and play resources reflect the wider world by presenting positive images of cultural and ethnic diversity and of disability. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure she understands children's needs and preferences before childminding arrangements start. Children contribute to the setting as they help plan activities and consider each others' needs; older children, for example, help select suitable toys for babies to use. The childminder understands how to support children with learning difficulties or disabilities, and the need to work closely with parents. She has realistic expectations, clear house rules which are agreed with parents, and offers children a great deal of time and attention. As a result, children understand what is required of them and behave well. Partnerships with parents are very good. The childminder provides parents with detailed written information about herself, her family and the service she provides. She emphasises the primacy of parents in their children's lives and explains how the documentation required and policies she follows ensure their wishes for the care of their children are met. Parents receive full information about how children spend their time and the care they receive through daily diaries which the childminder provides. She seeks feedback through parental questionnaires to enable her to further improve her service. Parents praise all aspects of the provision; they value the high quality of care their children receive and their happiness at the setting.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder's excellent organisation underpins the very high quality care the children receive. All the required documentation is in place and is exceptionally well arranged. The childminder shares all the records she maintains with parents and makes very good arrangements to keep them fully informed of all aspects of her childminding service. She stores children's personal details discreetly to protect their privacy. The childminder builds upon her already extensive child care experience by finding out about and taking advantage of any training opportunities available. She plans themes and activities to keep children fully interested and engaged throughout the summer holidays. She uses the Birth to three matters framework to develop her practice with babies and toddlers to ensure the needs of the youngest children are fully met. The childminder organises space and resources particularly effectively to provide a rich, child-friendly environment where children make excellent progress in all areas of their development. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration. 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):

- develop awareness of child protection issues.

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