



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY319620
Inspection date	22 June 2006
Inspector	Jill Steer

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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and two children aged nine and three years in Worthing, West Sussex. The ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding purposes 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 one child after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family have two cats.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health, including visits to the park, playing in the garden and riding the bikes. This helps to develop their strength and confidence as they run, jump and pedal.

From an early age children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through effective daily routines. These include washing their hands before meals and after visiting the toilet. Children are made comfortable and cared for appropriately when they become ill; parents are expected to keep them home until fully recovered, to minimise the spread of infection.

The childminder has a good understanding of nutrition and provides a balanced menu of meals and snacks, which enables the children to develop a positive attitude towards healthy eating. She uses fresh ingredients to produce appetising home cooked meals such as fish pie and popular pasta dishes; snacks are always juicy fresh fruit. Children are frequently reminded to drink. They are able to help themselves when they are thirsty, which encourages them to be independent and allows them to make choices.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy their play in warm and comfortable surroundings. They can move around freely, developing their self confidence by independently choosing what to play with and where, they can relax and feel at home.

They have safe and easy access to a suitable range of toys and resources, which are appropriate for their age and provide sufficient developmental challenge. Regular checks ensure equipment is clean and there are no broken parts that could harm a child. Children enjoy spending time in the enclosed garden which provides them with space to develop their physical skills in a secure environment.

Children benefit from close supervision from the childminder when on outings. They hold on to the buggy as they cross the roads; singing a song about the traffic lights reminds them that when it is red they must 'stop, stop, stop', and when it is green they can 'go, go, go'. School aged children can run ahead to the next tree or lamp post, as long as they can all still see each other, which allows them to gain an awareness of keeping themselves safe.

The childminder has a limited understanding of the signs and symptoms of the various types of abuse and child protection issues, which does not ensure children's welfare is fully safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a range of games and activities which are interesting and suitable for their individual stage of development. They can make their own choice about how to spend their time after school. For example, sometimes choosing to be energetic by running around playing hide and seek, and sometimes choosing to sit and concentrate with a game. Children develop their conversational skills as they readily engage in discussion with the childminder. They happily talk about being awarded a sticker for good behaviour, they are settled and relaxed with their relationship.

The childminder joins in with children's play when they ask, but she does not encourage them to fully explore and extend their play. Therefore, children often only play at some activities briefly, lacking the guidance to maintain their interest and therefore their learning. Children enjoy familiar games, and confidently ask for what they want to play with. For example, requesting the childminder plays the dog game, a memory game involving matching each dog to the correct bark.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are respected and valued as individuals. The childminder works with parents to support children and meet their individual needs. Time is taken each day to share information about the children to maintain continuity in their care. The childminder understands how she might adapt the service she provides to meet the additional needs of some children.

Children behave well, benefiting from the meaningful praise given by the childminder. They learn about the expected behaviour in the childminder's house by observing how the childminder's family behave. When children misbehave the childminder asks them to apologise, and sit for a while to think about what they have done.

Children have limited opportunities to learn about, understand and respect difference as there are very few resources or books which reflect positive images of diversity.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into the childminder's home which is a comfortable and well organised environment. This ensures they feel at home and at ease which means they have the confidence to initiate their own play. The daily routine is organised around the children's needs which includes sufficient time for snacks, play and trips to the park. Children are protected from people who may not have been vetted as the childminder keeps them close to her on outings.

The childminder has attended some relevant courses which enable her to support the children and meet their individual needs. For example the Introduction to

Childminding Practice and First Aid. Some of the required documentation is in place and stored securely. However, the childminder does not always ensure that children's welfare is supported by written records, and does not correctly record the children's daily attendance.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- improve knowledge and understanding of signs and symptoms of child abuse
- ensure children have access to a broad range of activities and resources which reflect diversity
- ensure written permission from parents for emergency medical treatment, medication, and outings is in place and available for inspection
- ensure the register is completed efficiently to accurately reflect the daily attendance

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