



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY335984
Inspection date	16 January 2007
Inspector	Kate Houghton
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 2006 and her childcare service is called Angelibabies. She lives with her husband and two children of pre-school age and school age, in a three bedroomed semi-detached property within the Horndean area of Waterlooville in Hampshire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and first floor master bedroom for daytime sleeping arrangements. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder drives and walks to local schools, pre-schools, activity groups and takes children to the library and local park. The childminder has two pet rabbits.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time and is currently minding two children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health needs are promoted effectively. Procedures are in place, for example, health and hygiene policies include clear and detailed information. Therefore, including the action the childminder will take in the event of any possible instances such as illness, accidents and the use of medication. All information is shared with parents and necessary consents obtained, including those for medical treatment and to agree arrangements for the administration of any prescribed medication. Therefore, ensuring all arrangements for children's health care are managed safely.

Stringent procedures are followed by the childminder to ensure all toys and equipment that children have access to are clean and hygienic. For example, bedding, eating utensils, toys and equipment are checked regularly, washed and sterilised routinely. Additionally, the childminder also considers the needs of babies and younger children, being mindful of the fact that they enjoy activities and play on floor areas. She places importance on making sure flooring and surface areas are kept clean and maintained to a high standard of cleanliness for children to access safely. Therefore, protecting them from the possible spread of germs and cross infection.

Younger children and babies benefit from the childminder's positive approach to ensuring their comfort and well being is promoted. For example, as part of the daily care routine high priority is given to ensuring children's hands and faces are clean and refreshed. Nappies are checked routinely and changed regularly, ensuring children remain clean and comfortable throughout the day. Older children are learning to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating, helping them to develop independence and gain an early awareness of hygiene procedures.

All children benefit from a regular fluid intake because the childminder offers frequent drinks of water to children, ensuring they are hydrated. Mealtime arrangements support the needs of children and are prepared and provided in line with parents wishes. The childminder obtains information from parents about children's individual dietary needs. She makes sure that she is aware of any specific requirements, ensuring meal time arrangements are managed safely. Children are learning about the importance of healthy eating. Although still young, children benefit from excellent opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of how different types of food are good for them. For example, they participate in the making of fruit smoothies, helping to choose the fruits and having fun sampling the end results.

The childminder uses her knowledge of child development well to extend activities. She introduces exciting opportunities for children such as messy play. For example, children have fun printing with fruit and vegetables, food tasting and cake decorating. Additionally, children are also helped to develop an early understanding of the value of healthy eating. They learn about food groups that are good for them, including food types such as grains, vegetables, meat, milk and fats. Games and activities, such as fun food lotto and food cycle games also encourage opportunities for children to develop an early learning and understanding of healthy eating through play.

An exciting and purposeful range of free play and planned activities ensure children's health and growth needs are fully promoted. Children benefit from frequent opportunities to develop their physical skills through active play. For example, babies and younger children greatly enjoy moving about the play areas freely, stretching, grabbing and reaching out for their favourite toys and activities. They show immense interest in their environment because the childminder has a very good understanding of how to use different types of toys and activities, promoting purposeful outcomes through play. For example, babies play with soft toys, activity toys and musical instruments, helping them to develop their skills such as hand eye co-ordination and build up strength in their large muscle groups in preparation and readiness for the next stage of their development. All children benefit from activities provided such as music and movement, access to large play equipment such as bouncy castles, swings, slides and large wheeled toys in the garden and outdoor areas, promoting opportunities to use their bodies in a variety of ways and develop their physical skills in all areas.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are provided with a warm, welcoming and inviting environment. The childminder takes great care to arrange and organise her home for children to truly enjoy the experience of being with her. She places high importance on ensuring all areas are inspiring to children, being both attractively organised, arranged and resourced to meet the needs and different ages of children attending. For example, educational posters are displayed and support themes and topics that children are learning about. Examples of children's art work and photographs of activities reflecting different types of play children enjoy are displayed throughout the home in all areas.

An outstanding and extensive range of high quality toys and equipment are provided for children to support their play and learning in all areas. Resources include natural and raw materials and also include an exceptional range of resources that reflect positive images of differences within our society. For example, role play, dolls, puppets, books, jigsaws and small world toys are authentic and promote opportunities for children to develop their understanding of different lifestyles, cultures and beliefs.

Toys and equipment are in very good condition and careful consideration is given by the childminder when selecting resources, ensuring they are stimulating, age appropriate and include a valuable play and educational content. Therefore, promoting fantastic opportunities for children to learn through play. Toys and equipment are rotated frequently and situated at low-level, for example, in wicker baskets, on shelving, in toy boxes, child sized table tops and on floor areas, enabling children to access them easily and choose from the range independently.

Effective steps are taken by the childminder to ensure children are safe and protected from any possible dangers. She routinely checks all areas within her home, equipment and toys, ensuring that all children are safe and secure. For example, equipment is utilised effectively and includes the use of safety gates, smoke detectors, plug socket covers and a baby monitor, ensuring the care needs of children are safely supported in all areas. Children benefit from the childminder's attention to safety procedures. For example, high priority is given to ensuring children are safe when travelling in her vehicle. Children benefit from being seated in age appropriate car seats with regard for the current legal requirements. Consent forms from parents

are obtained and arrangements are agreed for children's outings and when travelling in the childminder's car.

Children are developing an early understanding of how to keep themselves safe. For example, they know to keep close to the childminder when out walking and learn to look and listen out for cars when crossing the road. This is further extended through role play and children are introduced to age appropriate associated activities, helping them to learn about people who help them and develop a responsible attitude to keeping safe. Children also practise regular fire drills, promoting opportunities for them to gain an early understanding of what to do in the event of a possible emergency. The childminder records details in her fire log of when fire drills are carried out and shares her fire evacuation plans and procedures with parents. Therefore, providing reassurance and keeping parents clearly informed of procedures she will take to keep children safe in her home.

Children's welfare is promoted and the childminder is thoroughly aware of her responsibility to protect children and keep them safe. The child protection policy includes information with regard to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures and is shared with parents, ensuring they are informed and aware of how children are protected and safely cared for by the childminder whilst in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy an exciting and varied range of activities and purposeful play opportunities. Children benefit greatly from the childminder's enthusiasm and commitment, ensuring an age appropriate range of play and activities are provided for children. The childminder has regard for the Birth to three matters framework and uses the outcomes purposefully to support her planning of activities for children attending. Children are observed regularly and information collected is detailed on children's individual assessment records and used to inform future planning to take children on to the next step of their learning through play.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of how children develop through play. Younger children and babies are included in all types of activities, including messy play. For example, children enjoy exploring different textures and have fun making foot and hand prints, promoting opportunities to develop their sensory awareness and gain an early experience of handling different mediums such as paints.

Children enjoy high levels of quality care, their needs are responded to instantly by the childminder and their care requirements are supported very well. Children clearly benefit from warm responses and the nurturing care they receive. They enjoy time for cuddles and close contact with the childminder and are actively involved and included in play, being encouraged to explore and express themselves freely within their care environment. For example, younger children have great fun moving about over the funky footprints mat and are increasing their mobility and exploring their environment through their senses when feeling, touching and moving about they also gain an early understanding of cause and effect, promoted through play with activity and musical toys.

Children are engaged, happy and occupied. They benefit from time to relax and enjoy quieter moments when playing with puppets and sharing their favourite books and stories. They are intrigued by the pictures, different textures and materials they explore when being read to. Children's interest is promoted by the childminder in a relaxed and calm manner. They have fun and enjoy looking at their reflection in the mirror, being helped to develop their listening, communication and language skills through play and a varied range of stimulating and exciting activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

All children are welcomed and their individual needs are respected. The childminder treats all children with equal concern and identifies any specific care needs that children may have. The childminder promotes the importance of communicating with parents and obtains information to ensure children's individual care requirements are fully supported in all areas. For example, children's likes, dislikes, sleep times, feed times and overall care routines are discussed and the childminder adopts similar patterns of care for children as enjoyed at home, helping them to feel happy and secure in their environment.

Children enjoy and benefit from participating in various activities. This helps them to develop an early understanding of differences in society and learn about the wider world around them. Exciting play activities with authentic looking soft animals and puppets, introduce children to different creatures and encourage their recognition and interest in animals living in different parts of the world. Children also benefit from role play, play with puppets, soft toys and play with small world activities, helping them to learn about their natural environment and gain an understanding of different lifestyles and events that are celebrated in their community and reflected in society as a whole.

Children are clearly loved and cared for and as a result, are thriving within a positive and happy care environment. Children's overall wellbeing is promoted because the childminder consistently praises children and rewards them with positive feedback. Their achievements are recognised and stickers are given to children, helping them to feel valued, develop confidence and good self esteem.

Effective methods are used to promote a positive partnership with parents. For example, as part of settling in procedures, parents are actively involved in helping their child to settle in to the childminder's home. For example, an initial meeting is undertaken with the childminder, enabling both parents and children to attend the childminder's home together. The childminder uses this time to talk to parents about her practice including information about safety, hygiene, education and care. Policies and procedures are shared and agreed and future arrangements are made for children's attendance, enabling children and parents to prepare for visits again as part of settling in period. Staggered times are planned for to help children gain confidence and get to know the childminder's family and familiarise themselves with their care environment.

Parent are actively encouraged to communicate with the childminder and agreed times are arranged to discuss the care needs of their child. Parents also receive written daily reports from the childminder. Detailed accounts and comprehensive information is recorded on children's

daily report sheets. This includes explanatory information relating to how children are progressing, activities they have been engaged in, progress and achievements they are making and routine care information. As a result, parents are continually kept up to date and clearly informed about the care of their child.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder shows a true commitment and professional approach to her practice and as a result provides an exceptionally high quality standard of care for children. She gives high priority to ensuring that she is well informed and actively seeks out opportunities to reflect on her practice and develop her provision to ensure a high level of standards are maintained and ensure outcomes for children's care are positive. The childminder's home is organised effectively and arranged to ensure children are supported with regard for their individual care needs. Exceptional play opportunities are promoted and space available used purposefully, enabling children to move freely and confidently about the areas.

All required documentation is in place and additional information included, such as welcome letters and parent packs. Paperwork is reviewed on a regular basis and up dated as and when required, ensuring any changes are reflected. All information effectively supports children's care, health, safety and well-being. Documentation is current and clearly detailed to share with parents and the regulator. Systems in place are followed to ensure all persons living in the household are vetted, therefore, ensuring children are safe guarded.

As a result, 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

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.

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action to meet the National Standards.

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 *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