

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360450
Inspection date	07 May 2008
Inspector	Michele, Karen Beasley

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 2007. She lives with her husband and two children, one child is adult and the other attends school. The family home is situated in a residential area of Chichester, in West Sussex, within walking distance of the city centre. Children are cared for on the ground floor of the property, and use an upstairs bathroom. There is a secure rear garden for outside play. The family have two cats and indoor fish.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding 10 children under eight years on a full time and 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 good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder implements effective health and hygiene policies and procedures to promote their hygiene and prevent the spread of infection. For example, she wipes her hands and the children's with anti bacterial wipes before and after changing

children's nappies, and disinfects the changing mat after use. Written information is obtained from parents regarding children's medical history, allergies and special dietary requirements. However, written permission is not obtained for emergency medical treatment. Consequently, this does not ensure children's health and well-being. The childminder records accidents and the administration of medication appropriately.

Parents can supply their own children's meals. However, the childminder is flexible in providing buffet lunches, such as sandwiches with a variety of fillings, cherry tomatoes, carrot sticks and cucumber. Fresh fruit is available. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure the children's individual needs are being met and the parents' wishes are being respected at all times. The childminder gently reminds the children to say 'please' and 'thank you', encouraging them to use their manners and be polite throughout the day.

Young children benefit from the stimulating range of physical play experiences the childminder provides. The range of equipment used provides ample challenges for all the children who attend. The childminder ensures the children go out to reap the benefits of fresh air. They go to local parks to use the swings and slide. This develops skills, confidence and muscle control with large and small apparatus.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play and learn in a comfortable, child friendly environment, which is well laid out with sufficient space for them to play and explore. The children are happy and occupied as the childminder provides a good range of quality, age appropriate toys in the conservatory which are accessible to the children. Toys and resources are checked and cleaned to ensure they are in a suitable condition.

Children stay safe and develop confidence as the childminder closely supervises them and is very attentive. She takes steps to minimise hazards to ensure children's safety, such as stair gates in place. Emergency evacuation procedures are displayed and clear arrival and collection procedures are in place. The childminder's risk assessment procedures and hazard awareness are effective to ensure children's safety at all times. Good security is in place to ensure children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised.

The children are protected as the childminder has a good understanding of the safeguarding child protection procedures. This includes contacting Ofsted if the childminder has any concerns. The childminder has suitable documentation to record accidents and previous injuries, to ensure the children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and secure as a result of the childminder's warm, caring, attentive manner. They develop confidence and a sense of belonging as they form close relationships with the childminder, going to her for hugs and cuddles when they need reassurance. Children enjoy a good range of toys and activities. Children enjoy making cakes and drawing pictures for their own individual art files. They enjoy cuddling up for a story, recognising colours and pointing at pictures in books.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's developmental needs. The childminder is aware to update her knowledge in line with future new legislation. She joins in their play and gives them support as needed, when they need help to count the dots on a big inflatable dice. The childminder gently encourages the children to share and take turns, and work cooperatively to achieve their aim. She manages the range of ages very well, she has a good understanding of child development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident, happy and settled as the childminder is warm and caring. She has a good knowledge of their individual needs through talking to the parents, observing and listening to the children. She manages the range of ages well and ensures all children receive support according to their needs. She offers help as needed, for example, helping a child draw around a stencil. Resources are freely available for the children to make independent choices. Children learn about other cultures and traditions through making items such as chocolates, baskets and cards for Christmas and Easter.

Children play happily with the range of resources, sharing and taking turns as they play games with Dalek figures. They are very well behaved and they are learning right from wrong as the childminder uses praise and encourages their good behaviour. She gives clear explanations for unacceptable behaviour, for example, not climbing on outdoor furniture. She uses distraction well and uses appropriate behaviour management strategies that are suitable for the ages of children.

Children develop good relationships with one another and delight in joining together in their play. The childminder's interaction with children is good and she has a good knowledge of their individual needs, likes and interests, enabling each child to progress whilst in her care. The childminder has not minded children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Currently, there are no such children in attendance. In discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding that she would be happy to liaise with parents and other agencies to support them in making secure progress.

All children benefit from good working relationships between the childminder and their parents. Good links are in place between home and the setting, for example through the implementation of children's individual files and informal discussions at the beginning and end of the day. Parents are well informed about the childminder's service through a portfolio, which includes training certificates and procedures, which parents are given copies of and have signed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's organisation of the home provides children with good adult support within a safe environment. There is sufficient space for them to explore and play independently. The organisation of resources enables children to freely select them to initiate and develop their own play. This enables children to develop confidence and a sense of security in the environment.

The childminder has a good understanding of the requirements of registration and the National Standards for childminding. Children's care is enhanced by policies and procedures which fully support the childminder's practice to a good standard. The childminder gives priority to protecting children, promoting their well-being and ensuring that all children develop to their

full potential. Parents are kept well informed about the service provided, by regular verbal and clear written communication and the use of individual files. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required 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):

- ensure written permission is gained for emergency medical treatment
- continue to develop knowledge and understanding of childcare issues and related regulations

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