



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 112636
Inspection date 30 June 2005
Inspector Wendy, Elizabeth Lightfoot

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 has been registered since 1997. She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years, of these, not more than three may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year. At present, the childminder provides care for four children aged from 1 to 10 years at various times.

The childminder lives with her husband and three children, one of them is eight years old, the others are fifteen and sixteen. They live in a house in Portchester, within walking distance of local schools, shops and parks. It is normal practice for the childminder to use the ground floor only for childminding. There is a fully enclosed

garden available for outside play.

One member of the household smokes, however the childminder provides a smoke free environment for the children. The family have cats, fish, guinea pigs and a hamster.

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's health is protected well by being cared for in a hygienic environment. The childminder's thorough cleaning routines, which are ongoing throughout the day, do much to prevent cross- infection. Children learn good personal hygiene practices, as they are encouraged to take their shoes off and wash their hands, on arriving in the house from school; also hand washing after toileting, using a tissue, handling the cats and the guinea pigs. The childminder protects children by not undertaking the care of a sick child, where there is any risk of infecting another child.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure their children have varied and healthy diets. She protects children who have a food allergy and ensures they are not put at risk. Children are provided with additional drinks in warm weather, and ice lollipops to help them stay cool, and prevent dehydration.

Toddlers' emotional well-being is well supported by the childminder recognising when toddlers are ready to sleep, providing cuddles and ensuring comfort when they are sleeping. Toddlers receive prompt attention when awaking. The childminder regularly carries out visual checks on sleeping toddlers to monitor their well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's are safe indoors, as the minder uses some safety equipment and relies on good supervision to reduce other risks. She monitors the toddlers whereabouts vigilantly, to ensure they remain safe for example, when the childminder goes to the kitchen to make a cup of tea, she takes a bucket of bricks the children are enjoying, so they follow and play within sight of her.

There are several potential hazards, indoors and outdoors, where risks have not been minimised with the use of equipment, but which the minder aims to manage with effective supervision. For example, there is no barrier to prevent children accessing the stairs and only partial protection from the low-level glass in the greenhouse; also, the fishpond has only low, trellis-style fencing, which is easily climbed. Although the minder provides good supervision, the lack of safety equipment limits children's ability to play and move freely, around the space available. The childminder teaches children rules regarding areas they may not

access.

There is a basic range of safe and suitable toys for toddler to explore, and further toys and art materials suitable for older children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Toddlers are confident and relaxed in the childminders' company. There is a small range of toys for toddlers to build and explore. The older children are helped to understand the need to be considerate about younger children's feelings, interests and safety.

Young children are not be pressured into learning, but some opportunities to build on their own interests to support their development are missed. Limited toys are available indoors for older children to access freely. More toys are available in the playhouse in the garden, but are not well organised to be immediately accessible to the children.

Older children have are given time to chill out and rest after school or to use up excess energy. The after school children like to watch a film, play with construction toys, or get out the art materials, of which there is a good supply. In the school holidays, the childminder makes good use of the local environment to take children on exciting activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Older children are encouraged to behave responsibly towards younger children and keep them safe. Children learn rules for safety and socialising. The childminder expects new children to the setting to take turns and share, to learn "house rules", such as what they must not touch and where they must not go. They are taught rules for handling the guinea pigs, for their own safety and to protect the animals. If challenges arise, the childminder liaises with children's parents so children receive a consistent approach in managing their behaviour. Children are not allowed to behave rudely or unfairly, generally, children are comfortable and relaxed, so behave well.

Children benefit from the childminders' partnership with parents. She arranges a handover conversation with parents each day, exchanging important information regarding the child's day, but is willing to use a daily diary, if parents welcome this.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The needs of all the children are satisfactorily met.

The childminder uses documentation to underpin the care of the children. She understands the importance of keeping an accurate register of children's attendance and aims to be accurate to within five minutes. The childminder maintains clear records of parent contact information. She has a current first aid qualification to ensure she can deal promptly with any accident that may occur, and a nursing qualification to underpin her support of children's health. The childminder discusses her practice with parents at enrolment, giving them information about her registration with Ofsted.

The childminder ensures her childminding numbers remain within registered ratios, and has sufficient space for children to play. She provides much one to one attention for babies. She keeps accident records and shares these with children's own parents. Although she is not currently using documentation to share information with parents about children's well-being and progress, she does arrange a regular verbal exchange, so parents are kept up to date.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve the procedure for obtaining written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, to supply and fit a fire blanket in the kitchen, to update the contents of the first aid box and to improve the details of children recorded on all documents.

The childminder has recently gained a first aid qualification which provided her with a recommended list of first aid items. Though these are not all collected together in one, easily accessible kit, the childminder is confident that, with her nursing training and experience, added to her first aid training, she can manage emergencies.

Details of children recorded on documents have been improved and confidentiality taken into account when organising this. The childminder has now obtained advance parental consent in writing for emergency medical advice/ treatment and a fire blanket has been fitted on the kitchen door.

Complaints since the last inspection

Concerns were expressed to Ofsted relating to National Standard 6, Safety. Ofsted asked the childminder to investigate and report back within 10 working days. The childminder complied and we are satisfied that she has taken appropriate steps to address the concern. The childminder remains qualified for registration.

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 children's safety, for example through the use of safety gates, to allow children to move more freely around the house and garden.
- extend knowledge and understanding of how to support the development of children under three years, for example, through Birth to three matters.

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