

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY252613
Inspection date 21 January 2008
Inspector Rosemary Musgrove

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 2003. She lives with her husband and two school aged children in Storrington, West Sussex. The ground floor of the property is used for childminding and there is a secure area within the rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding seven children on a part-time basis.

The family has two dogs, three rabbits and a hamster.

The childminder lives near to the local library and a park.

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 participate in a range of physical and outdoor activities. This means they enjoy fresh air and develop their coordination skills. In the childminders garden, they use a large trampoline and on her drive, they ride on the bikes and scooters. Inside the childminder's home, children love to join in dancing activities as they listen to the Sticky Kids tape.

The childminder has a current first aid certificate. This means she can administer first aid in the event of an emergency. The childminder has written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment and keeps appropriate records if a child has an accident. The childminder has a written sickness policy. This gives parents clear guidelines about children with an illness. If children are infectious, the childminder does not look after them. This means that other children do not catch unwanted illnesses. The childminder understands the procedures if she administers medication and keeps clear details of the dosage.

The childminder has a good understanding of the importance of a healthy and balanced diet. Children eat a range of healthy snacks including fresh fruit, raisins or toast. Some children have a nutritious hot meal whilst at the childminder's, such as roast chicken with fresh vegetables, salmon or shepherd's pie. Children help themselves to water from an individual cup whenever they are thirsty.

Children play in a clean and orderly environment. The childminder encourages them to develop healthy habits. For example, children wash their hands before they eat a snack and the childminder gives them hand wipes after they have eaten their lunch.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in an orderly environment with plenty of space both indoors and outside. They benefit from having a dedicated playroom that is well organised with a good range of quality resources. This means that children move around and select their preferred activity, such as the wooden blocks, the musical instruments or the collection of hats.

Children are looked after in a safe and secure indoor environment. The childminder has a good understanding of potential hazards and has implemented a number of safety measures to protect children from harm. These include safety gates, a fireguard and safety locks on kitchen drawers and cupboards that contain dangerous items. Before children arrive, the childminder checks that her children have put their toys away. The childminder has a written evacuation plan and the children have fire drills. Outside, the childminder has created a safe and secure garden for the children within her extensive land. Beyond the secure garden area, there is a covered pond and a stream that flows through the grounds. When children use the trampoline that is situated within the grounds the childminder escorts them and is vigilant about their supervision; however, the water butt poses a potential hazard for young children. The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of keeping children safe on outings. She chooses venues that are safe and secure and teaches the children about road safety.

The childminder has completed training and understands her role in child protection. She has a written policy and a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. If she had

concerns about a child in her care, she has the current documentation, knows who to contact and how to record her concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. They enjoy choosing their own resources and playing with other children. When necessary, the children engage the childminder's attention and seek her guidance. These factors mean that children spend their time purposefully whilst in the childminder's care.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of Birth to three matters and the Foundation Stage. Children have a development book and the childminder records their progress in the areas of learning. This enables the childminder to plan according to the developmental stage of each child. The childminder has good planning systems in place and likes to work with a topic approach, such as food, when children taste different foods and create toppings for their pizzas.

Young children are keen to explore a wide range of resources. They enjoy playing with the role play equipment and dressing up with different hats. They are fascinated when they discover how different an object looks through a magnifying glass. Children like to engage the childminder's attention to share a book and thoroughly enjoy finding out about tadpoles and crayfish. The childminder's interaction helps the children's vocabulary and language development. A favourite activity is the rainbow rice. Children are enthralled for a long time as they scoop, pour and explore the texture of the rice.

Children enjoy a range of creative activities. They choose to draw a picture with the chubby crayons or explore the musical instruments. Children find out about the world in which they live when they grow plants in the childminder's garden or visit Arundel Wildfowl Reserve and Washbrooks Farm. Children have opportunities to mix with other children when they go to the local playgroup or watch a musical event at the school.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good awareness of the needs of individual children. For example, she knows the toys that help them to sleep, their individual stage of development and their food preferences. Children learn about their own and other cultures. At Christmas, they make cards and create their handprint on a tile as a present for their parents. During Chinese New Year, children use chopsticks to eat noodles and learn about Chinese numbers. The childminder has some resources that help children to learn about other cultures. These include small play people, dolls, books and pictures from magazines. However, resources that help children to develop a positive view of different aspects of diversity are limited.

The childminder has experience of caring for children who have additional difficulties or disabilities. She is happy to consider minding a child with specific requirements and would work with other agencies to support the child in the best possible way.

Children behave well in the childminder's home. There is a clear written behaviour policy. This states that the childminder sets a good example, is consistent and praises good behaviour. If there is a behavioural issue, the childminder uses time out. Children are guided away from

hurting other children and if there is an incident, they are encouraged to say sorry. This means that children begin to think about the needs and feelings of others. The childminder praises the children, for example, if they say her name correctly.

If parents are interested in using the childminder's service, they can read information on her internet site. They visit her home and arrange settling in sessions for their children. The childminder has a range of policies for parents to browse and these include uncollected children and confidentiality. The childminder has good communication systems for parents. Each day children take home a written diary with details about the important aspects of their care. Parents receive newsletters and an attractive photo album showing their child's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has a number of years experience working with young children. She has recently completed some training as part of a diploma in home based childcare and has kept abreast of current childcare developments. Children spend their time purposefully and are confident to initiate their own play and learning. They move around freely and confidently as they select their favourite toys. There is enough adult attention and children approach the childminder for their preferred resources or guidance.

The childminder displays her certificate of registration and has the mandatory documentation in place. This is well maintained and securely stored. The childminder has a number of written permissions from parents. These include permission for transport in vehicles and routine outings. The childminder has a procedure for dealing with parental complaints in an appropriate way.

Parents are well informed about their children and can talk to the childminder on a regular basis. This contributes to and enhances the continuity of the children's care.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to become more familiar with child protection procedures.

The childminder has undertaken child protection training and knows the procedures to follow if she had concerns about a child in her care. This means that children's well-being is protected.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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:

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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):

- make water butt safe or inaccessible to the children
- continue to extend resources to help children develop a positive view of all aspects of diversity.

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