



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY318996
Inspection date	25 April 2006
Inspector	Carol Johnstone

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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged 1,3 and 7 years in Portland, Dorset.

The whole of the childminder's house is registered for childminding purposes and there is an enclosed rear garden for outside play. The childminder walks to local schools to take/collect children.

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

childminder provides overnight care.

The family have a cat and a dog, neither of whom have access to minded children.

The childminder holds an NNEB qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in hygienic surroundings and the kitchen, toilets and floors are cleaned on a daily basis. The childminder has a certificate in food hygiene and is careful with the preparation of children's snacks and lunches, washing her hands beforehand and making sure that food is stored correctly. Children learn about healthy eating in the setting. There is regular discussion about what food is good for you and what is not during snack times; children are also growing vegetables from seeds. The childminder also talks about what is grown at the family's allotment and why fresh vegetables are beneficial. Children have fruit each day at snack time and are able to choose from a wide selection. They have access to drinks throughout the day to ensure adequate levels of hydration are maintained; the childminder encourages children to choose water instead of squash. Children also enjoy using the juicing machine to make their own apple or orange juice.

Children learn about their personal hygiene through regular hand washing after using the toilet and before snacks. However, although children currently have designated hooks for their towels, the towels are the same colour which means that children sometimes use each other's. This does not minimise the risk of cross infection.

Children have regular fresh air and exercise each day. There are daily walks to and from the local schools, shops and parks. There are weekly trips to the bounce and play centre where children use a range of equipment. There is also a range of play equipment in the garden including a swing and seesaw and there are regular ball games.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are protected in the setting through comprehensive safety measures being in place. These include safety gates, socket covers, door stoppers, cupboard locks and cable ties. The front door is kept locked to avoid any risk of children escaping out onto the road. There is a written fire procedure and there are plans for this to be practised regularly with the children, so that they will know what to do in an emergency. Young children are protected from the risk of choking as any toys which have small parts are stored out of reach on high shelves. The childminder keeps children together during activities to ensure constant supervision. When on outings, children are secured into buggies or on reins to avoid any risk from the road. Older

children hold on to the buggy and are not allowed to run ahead. Children who are transported in the car have age appropriate car seats and the vehicle is regularly serviced and checked to ensure it is safe for children to travel in.

Children would be supported in the event of a child protection concern arising as the childminder has a full understanding of the types of abuse and the signs to be aware of. She knows how to record details of a concern and who to contact for assistance. There is a written child protection policy given to all parents, which outlines the childminder's responsibilities and the action she will take to report any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities in the setting. The childminder has a good understanding of what children enjoy at different ages, and adapts activities to enable younger ones to be included in the older children's play. Children are able to choose from cookery, art and craft work, construction, sand and water play, musical instruments, planting and growing, collage making, kite flying, jigsaws or board games. There is a dedicated playroom for children containing a child size sofa and table and chairs so that children can draw or read comfortably. The toys and resources are stored in clear plastic boxes so that children are able to see and choose, independently, from what is available for them to play with. Children also have use of the lounge which has plenty of clear floor space for them to spread out puzzles or train sets. In addition for older children there is use of the dining room with a large table to enable them to do their homework quietly after-school.

Children are supported by the childminder during their play and she encourages learning through asking them to count play pieces and talk about colours and words. She also shows the children how to weigh and measure during activities such as cookery. When she takes children to the shops to buy the ingredients, they are encouraged to find what is needed on the list and to count out the money which helps their numerical skills.

Children are very settled and comfortable with the childminder. They approach her with ease and confidence to chat to her about their day or ask for something. Younger ones go to her readily for a cuddle or to play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well in the setting. There are clear boundaries set in the initial stages of care and these are discussed fully with parents. The childminder promotes positive behaviour by using praise freely. Negative behaviour is dealt with in a low-key way and an explanation given to the child as to why it is unacceptable. Children learn to respect and be polite to each other and this is encouraged through the childminder being a positive role model. Children share their toys readily with each other during play and help each other complete tasks. Children learn about the

cultures and religions of others through discussion topics and celebration of festivals. There is a range of resources such as books, jigsaws and finger puppets which reflect diversity and disability. Children are encouraged to play with all resources regardless of their gender. There is a clear equal opportunities policy and this is shared with parents. The childminder has a positive attitude to welcoming children with special needs. She has particular experience of caring for children with learning and behavioural issues, and would work in conjunction with parents to meet a child's specific needs.

There are positive relationships with parents which support the children during their care. All parents are invited to visit two or three times before the child starts to ensure that they and the child are familiar with the childminder and the setting. A comprehensive parent prospectus is given which outlines all the policies and procedures. This also contains details of the training that has been completed by the childminder and outlines her previous experience of childcare. There is open communication between parents and the childminder and daily discussion is encouraged upon collection of the child. The childminder also completes a daily diary for younger children. Contracts are reviewed on a regular basis to see if children's needs are being met. The childminder has a good understanding of confidentiality in all aspects of care, and does not discuss personal details with others.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her practice well. She plans the use of space very effectively which allows children the freedom to choose where they want to play. The documentation is comprehensive and covers all aspects of care.

The childminder records attendance accurately which gives a clear picture of which children are present if there is an emergency. The childminder has obtained parental consent for most aspects of care such as transportation, emergency medical treatment, photos, use of sun cream and all activities. The childminder is aware of the required complaints procedure and has included this in the parent prospectus. Public liability insurance and car documentation are up-to-date. All documentation is stored in a confidential way.

The childminder holds an NNEB qualification. She has also recently completed an introduction to childminding practice training course.

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:

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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):

- ensure that the hand washing procedures used minimise the risk of cross infection.

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