



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY286190
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 October 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet Armstrong

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since May 2004. She lives with her husband and four children aged seven, five, three and eight months old. They live in a terraced house set out on four levels, situated close to the town centre of Bridport. The family have a pet cat.

The main accommodation for childminding purposes is on the lower ground level. This comprises of a playroom and kitchen with access to a small enclosed patio area. Toilet and sleep facilities are provided on the ground floor level and a family bathroom on the first floor.

The childminder is registered to care for up to two children under the age of eight. There is currently three children on roll.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted very well. Children learn the importance of positive hygiene practices through daily routines to reduce their risk of catching germs. They wash their hands after playing outdoors, using the toilet and before mealtimes. Children are able to explore in a clean and hygienic environment due to the positive cleaning routines followed by the childminder which help to reduce the risk of the spread of infection. Children's health and well-being is supported by clear procedures and documentation for recording any accidents and administered medicines. A clear sickness policy that is shared with parents ensures that children are not unnecessarily exposed to infection. Reliable routines that keep the family cat healthy further promotes children's health to reduce their exposure to illness.

Children learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle through a range of nutritious snacks and lunches provided by the childminder. These include home-made soup and pizza, jacket potatoes and lots of fruit and vegetables which, wherever possible are organic, purchased locally and free from chemicals. Children learn about healthy foods through discussion and the childminder's positive attitude. Children have regular opportunities to develop their physical skills. They enjoy local walks and access to a range of equipment in the patio area at the back of the house. For example, use of trikes, a scooter and ball games enables children to practice and develop their skills in these areas.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children's safety is promoted well. All the necessary precautions have been taken to reduce potential hazards both indoors and on the patio area. For example, where possible, gates restrict access to the stairs and outdoors, window locks prevent children from opening windows and socket covers protect any exposed electrical points. Along with good levels of supervision, this means children are able to play in a safe environment, free from potential hazards. Written risk assessments completed every six months and daily checking of the furniture, equipment and play provision as it is being used enables the childminder to monitor their suitability and safety. These positive procedures provide children with plenty of clear space in which to explore safely without too many restrictions. Emergency evacuation of the property in the event of the fire has been considered. However, this has not been discussed or practised with children to help keep them safe.

Children learn safe practices through clear instructions from the childminder, such as how to use scissors correctly, no jumping on the furniture or running up and down

stairs. When on outings and local walks they learn how to cross the road safely. This helps promote their self-awareness and encourages them to consider their own safety.

Children are protected from harm through the childminder's clear awareness and understanding of child protection issues. She is clear on what procedures to follow should she have a concern about a child in her care.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's comfortable family orientated home. They have developed good relationships with the childminder and receive high levels of positive interaction and stimulation to support their development and general progress. Children are able to move around and play freely with plenty of clear floor space due to the positive layout of the furniture and use of rooms. Children have some access to the play provision. However, they generally rely on the childminder to access and provide activities for them. This restricts them in making free choices and developing their personal independence.

Children are involved in a good range and balance of activities that support their learning well. The childminder has a good awareness and understanding of their individual needs and provides the children with appropriate challenges and one-to-one attention. For example, children show a sense of pride and achievement on completing a challenging jigsaw puzzle. Children's all-round development is supported well through planned themes and activities throughout the year. For example, the current project explores Australia. The children have been involved in creative activities looking at Australian art, native creatures and baking Anzac biscuits. They pour, measure, stir and mix the ingredients together to make individual biscuits. They chat confidently with the childminder, answering questions and talking about what they are doing. Plans identify a good range of activities to support and challenge children's learning, taking into consideration their age and stage of development. For example, a good range of creative activities, construction play including puzzles, outings, books and imaginative play provides children with a good balance and range of interesting and stimulating activities.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are supported well. A strong partnership with parents and good levels of regular communication ensures that the childminder and parents are well informed. This provides children with continuity of care and promotes their confidence. For example, a daily diary enables parents and the childminder to record particular details of children's progress, routines and individual needs. Regular questionnaires completed by parents enables the childminder to effectively assess her practices and the quality of the service that she provides. This means the individual needs of children and those of the families for whom she provides are

effectively met. Children's welfare is further supported through the use of written contracts and consents and written policies and procedures outlining the childminder's aims and practices. This means that both parties are clear on the levels of care and each other's expectations. The childminder has a positive attitude and awareness and understanding of special educational needs which will enable her to sufficiently support children in her care.

Children have a positive introduction to the local community and wider world in which they live. Children learn about their local community through visits to the town library, market day and through entering local competitions. Access to a range of toys, play provision and planned themes provides children with regular opportunities to discover and explore other cultures, positively raising their awareness of diversity.

Children are well behaved. They learn what is expected of them and why through clear boundaries and expectations. They learn to share, take turns and consider the needs of those around them.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and confident in this well-organised and safe family home. Careful consideration has been given to the layout of furniture and use of rooms to provide children with a range of experiences. This means that children are able to play freely and safely, although opportunities for them to access play provision is not always effective. Persons living in the household over the age of 16 are appropriately vetted to promote children's safety. However, further consideration of children's safety is needed to protect them in the event of an emergency. Children receive high levels of individual attention and support through the good use of the childminder's daily routines and forward planning.

The children's welfare is reliably supported through detailed documentation. Positive outcomes for children are promoted through the childminder's strong partnership with parents and effective practices. The childminder meets the needs of the children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- practise emergency evacuation procedures with children to further promote their safety whilst in the home
- improve opportunities for children to have free access to play provision to enable them to make their own choices and develop their personal independence.

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