



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	100418
Inspection date	25 May 2006
Inspector	Bridget Copson
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 1985. She lives with her husband, who is also registered as an assistant, in the Bearcross area of Bournemouth. The accommodation available for childminding includes use of the sitting room, kitchen, dining room, hall and toilet on the ground floor. One of the bedrooms in the first floor is used for children to sleep. There is a well-secured garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time. She currently has four children under five years on her register, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered as a network childminder, a community childminder and a mentor.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's physical development and fitness is promoted well by the childminder through use of a good range of toys and activities. For example, they enjoy a play house, scooters, bikes, see-saw, climbing frame with slide and games in the garden. In addition, they walk to the local play park, visit the indoor soft-play centre and join in dancing and games indoors. All activities are suitable for all ages, including younger children developing early mobility skills. Children learn about healthy eating habits through innovative activities and good practice from the childminder. For example, they play card games to help them recognise healthy food options, which they identify and match up with the foods they bring in for lunch each day. They also plant and grow vegetables in the garden to harvest and eat at a later date. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure children all have healthy options included. Children access their own drinks regularly throughout the day to ensure they do not get thirsty.

Children are cared for within a clean and hygienic environment, where the childminder has good systems in place to prevent the spread of infection. For example, daily housework, disinfecting surfaces and equipment as it is used, cleaning toys regularly, hand washing routines and excluding infectious children. However, the back of the high chair is torn and therefore cannot be cleaned thoroughly and one of the larger role play units has dust and loose dirt particles on it. This does not further promote a clean and hygienic environment for children. Children learn about managing good personal hygiene through regular hand washing and using individual hand towels.

Children's health, medical and dietary requirements are met efficiently by the childminder. Parents provide written details of the care required and are given written records of any accidents, incidents or medication administered, to sign, for consistency of care. The needs of children with special dietary requirements are met with care and attention. For example, the childminder keeps written instructions from parents, she has been trained to administer medication appropriately and keeps a separate first aid kit to take on outings. The childminder holds an appropriate first aid certificate and first aid kit to support her in caring for children appropriately in the event of an accident. However, her assistant, who also cared for children unsupervised on occasions, does not currently hold a valid first aid certificate.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for within well-maintained premises, which are organised skilfully to meet their needs. For example, children use the sitting room for quiet play, large open floor play and physical activities. They also use the dining room for more focused activities at the table, for messy play and meal times and the first floor bedroom for a peaceful environment for sleep. The hall provides children with an area to store their possessions on named pegs and provides parents with a large notice area for information.

Children are kept safe and secure by the childminder, who has excellent measures in place to protect them in all areas of her provision. For example, a locked and alarmed entrance door, safety glass, window locks, hazardous substances out of reach, socket covers, safety gates, a sleep monitor, a safe toilet door lock and a fixed fire guard. In addition, the garden has high sided boundaries, a locked entrance with security code for parents and all hazardous plants have been removed. On outings, high standards of safety are maintained through use of close supervision, the childminder's assistant providing additional support and ensuring younger children wear reins. Children learn about safety well, through excellent practical activities and the childminder's guidance. For example, road safety on walks, using craft tools safely, not running indoors and stranger danger. Children also practise the fire evacuation procedure every three months, to teach them how to respond in the event of an emergency. The childminder has thorough systems in place to monitor and maintain high standards of safety in all areas. For example, she carries out daily visual checks and regular written risk assessments of all areas, as well as keeping evacuation procedure records to ensure all children are included.

Children of all ages access toys freely and independently, from the floor toy boxes and book shelves in the sitting room and the art and craft boxes in the dining room. All toys are in very good condition and anything damaged is discarded. Children do not have access to anything unsafe or unsuitable for their stage of development, the childminder keeps such toys out of reach as part of her thorough risk assessments. This ensures children of all ages can play freely and safely.

Children are very well-protected by the childminder, who has thorough systems in place to safeguard their welfare. For example, updated records from parents, which include details of adults authorised to collect children, close supervision and additional support from her assistant. The childminder has an excellent understanding of her role and responsibility in protecting children and the procedures involved in raising any concerns. She and her assistant have attended child protection training to support them in safeguarding children's welfare and provide parents with a copy of their policy and procedures for consistency of care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of play provision to support all areas of their learning and development. For example, they construct using train tracks, Mega Blocks, Duplo, Lego, Stickle Bricks and Octons and use many different activity centres, sorters, threading games, puzzles and games to develop manipulative skills. They also use their imaginations with role play, small world sets, dressing up and music and enjoy story and reference books. In addition, children use their creative skills with many different resources and materials for art and craft as well as cookery, and use reference books to seek fresh ideas.

Children are happy and settled within the childminder's care. For example, they arrive happy and enthusiastic, they talk freely about what they are making and home news. They move around the room choosing activities for themselves and sharing well with others. They communicate well with each other, the childminder and visitors. They ask lots of questions, think for themselves, make decisions and share their thoughts and knowledge as solutions. For example, discussing fruit and vegetable flash cards, creating peg designs, counting aloud and

problem solving a stuck train on the track. They learn new words frequently through planned activities and count spontaneously in their play. Older children are learning to recognise and sound key letters, such as their name, correctly and take pride in writing their own names on craft work. This all shows children have a good sense of well-being and are learning and developing well.

Children's learning and development is planned within the Foundation Stage curriculum with activities sometimes linked to themes. For example, within 'Food' theme, children sow seeds, look at healthy eating options, find out about food in books and learn food names with flash cards. Younger children's learning and development is planned with the Birth to three matters framework in mind. Children's progress is assessed well by the childminder, who observes them and interacts closely in their play. She writes a report to show their current stage of development each three months. However, children's next steps are not actively planned, using these assessments, to encourage them to develop to their full potential.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for equally and fairly by the childminder, who has excellent systems in place to meet their individual needs and routines. For example, detailed records from parents which are updated regularly, superb relationships with parents and close and skilful interaction with children. Children learn about diversity well, through purposeful activities to raise their awareness of each other's individuality. For example, cooking foods from different cultures, attending multi-cultural workshops and playing with resources which reflect positive images of different cultures and disabilities. The childminder is proactive in providing any additional skills and resources to support the care of all those in her provision. For example, she attends relevant training, learns new skills and liaises closely with parents, to ensure children are cared for appropriately and are fully included.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. They are developing an excellent understanding of what is expected of them and how to behave positively towards others. For example, they share very well, take turns and wait patiently for their turn, say please and thank-you without prompt and do not show any unkind or disrespectful behaviour. They show an unquestionable sense of belonging within the childminder's care. For example, they arrive happy, settle quickly, find their own pegs and belongings easily and show photos of themselves on the wall with excitement. Children are cared for within a very positive environment, where they are provided with lots of encouragement and praise to boost their self-esteem.

Children are cared for consistently and according to parent's wishes in all areas of the provision, through the superb partnerships established with parents. For example, parents are provided with a comprehensive information pack with details of the childminder and her background, her qualifications and policies and procedure for all aspects of the provision. Parents also complete records, contracts and consent forms, which are updated regularly to ensure children continue to be cared for according to their wishes. Parents are kept extremely well-informed through good daily communication and a large display wall in the hall with certificates, notices, activities, and the policies and procedures. They also receive a daily journal for younger children and assessment reports for older children every three months. Parents are encouraged to get

involved and contribute their thoughts through joining in and supporting themes, completing compliment books, being advised of the complaints procedure and joining in social events.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well-cared for by the childminder, who regularly updates her knowledge and skills through attending training opportunities and workshops. For example, child protection courses, first aid training, health and safety, food hygiene, meaningful observations, Makaton, the early learning goals, alcohol and drug abuse and several different aspects of children's play and learning. She is also currently attending a Foundation Stage curriculum course to support children's learning. The childminder is a registered network childminder, community childminder as well as a mentor. Through such roles, she meets regularly with the Local Authority to continually monitor, assess and improve the quality of her provision.

Children are cared for within a warm and welcoming home, where the childminder has systems in place to ensure they are not at risk. For example, she ensures her assistant has been fully vetted and is sufficiently well-informed to support her in caring for children appropriately, such as attending child protection training. However, he does not hold a valid first aid certificate to support him in caring for children appropriately in the event of an accident.

Children's needs are met well by the childminder, who has effective systems in place to monitor the quality of care she provides. For example, planned activities, risk assessments, fire evacuation reports, completing the Quality Standards workbook and acting upon reports from the Local Authority. However, some aspects of health and hygiene are not monitored, such as the cleaning and maintaining some of the equipment and updating her assistant's first aid certificate.

The childminder keeps well-organised documentation, which allows her to access information easily. She keeps children's records in a lockable file cabinet to maintain confidentiality. She updates all records each year, to ensure she holds correct information to meet children's needs and routines accurately and according to parent's wishes.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She agreed to increase her understanding of behaviour management practices and techniques, to inform Ofsted when changes occur and to display the Ofsted registration certificate.

The childminder provides children with a good range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She manages children behaviour consistently and well and, as a result, their behaviour is exemplary. She informs Ofsted when changes occur and displays the Ofsted registration certificate on her parent's notice board.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received 1 complaint, relating to Standard 6: Safety. The complaint related to a child allegedly being left unattended in a car. We carried out an investigation on 13 July 2004. As a result, an action was raised against National Standard 6: Safety. The provider has responded appropriately. We took no further action and the provider remains qualified for registration. The complaint was not recorded in the complaints record.

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):

- improve further, good standards of hygiene, especially regarding the maintenance of the high chair and large role play equipment
- ensure the assistant completes an appropriate first aid course

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