



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY318076
Inspection date	23 May 2006
Inspector	Janet Armstrong

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 October 2005. She lives with her partner and two children aged seven and two and a half years, in Creekmoor, an area on the outskirts of Poole.

The whole of the ground floor and her son's bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have a pet rabbit and goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for up to two children under the age of eight. There are currently two children on roll, of whom both attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder is Nursery Nurse Examinations Board qualified and a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted through clear procedures and paperwork. Accidents are clearly detailed and accurate procedures are followed for the safe administration of medication. The childminder does not hold a current and valid first aid certificate. However, she is clear on the appropriate action to take to manage children's medical needs and support their care in an emergency situation. She has obtained written parental permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment to support her and intends to complete appropriate first aid training shortly. This will ensure her practice is current and up-to-date.

Children are encouraged to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. In the upstairs bathroom they have separate hand towels and access to liquid soap to help reduce the risk of the spread of infection. However, after messy play activities downstairs, they share a communal flannel. This increases their exposure to germs and cross contamination. A clear written sickness policy is in place and shared with parents to enable sick and infectious children to be excluded to help reduce the risk of the spread of infection. A clean environment with good standards of hygiene is maintained to support children's health.

Children's healthy lifestyle is promoted extremely well through the childminder's positive and proactive approach and attitude. The children are offered healthy snacks, such as fruit and have access to drinks throughout the day. Children are provided with a biscuit when visiting local toddler groups, which the childminder supplements with raisins. To ensure children are provided with consistent messages and healthy options throughout the day, parents are required to provide healthy foods for their children at lunchtime. Leaflets and positive discussions with parents about healthy options has had a positive impact on the children's health and well-being as lunchbox contents have been improved. Children's positive messages of healthy foods are reinforced through cutting and sticking activities to make pictures of healthy and unhealthy foods. Each child has their own chart to show what healthy foods they have eaten each day, which are sent home to parents at the end of each week. Positive steps are in place to enable the childminder to cater to children's individual dietary needs, including allergies and food intolerances to further promote children's health. Children have regular opportunities to become physically active. They enjoy regular walks and trips to local parks and places of interest, as well as having access to a range of equipment to support the development of their large motor skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is promoted well. They play under good levels of supervision from the childminder. All the necessary precautions have been taken to reduce or remove potential hazards within the home and garden to enable children to explore freely. For example, socket covers protect exposed electrical points, a guard protects the electric fire, all low glass meets British Standards safety standards, hazardous substances are inaccessible to children and stair gates at the kitchen entrance, top and bottom of stairs restricts children's unsupervised access. The back garden is securely fenced and gated, with the garage and sheds locked and the pond securely fenced and covered to enable children to play outdoors safely under the childminder's supervision. All the furniture, equipment and play provision is in a good state of repair and appropriate to support the care and learning needs of those children present.

Children's safety is further promoted through written policies and procedures followed to monitor the safety of the environment and keep children safe. For example, smoke alarm records show these are tested each month, fire drills are practised on a monthly basis with children to enable them to calmly evacuate the premises in an emergency situation. There are written procedures in place for lost and uncollected children to support the childminder in an emergency situation. Children's safety when on outings is promoted through raising their awareness of potential hazards around them and teaching them how to cross the road safely. The childminder has recently completed a written risk assessment to enable her to identify and monitor potential hazards around her home. She intends to complete these on a monthly basis to enable her to further promote children's safety whilst in her care. The childminder is clear on child protection issues and what action to take should she have a concern about a child in her care. A written statement is in place and shared with parents. This helps keep children safe from harm.

Children are taught safe practices. This raises their awareness of the potential hazards around them. For example, basic house rules in place raise children's awareness of expected behaviour and helps them take positive steps towards keeping themselves and others safe. They learn the safe use of outdoor equipment, no jumping on the furniture, no running indoors and to have kind hands and feet.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well cared for. The childminder skilfully shares her time between the needs and demands of the young children present. She ensures that children are well occupied and engaged through providing them with planned activities and free access to a range of suitable toys and play provision. Good relationships have been formed between the childminder and children present. They respond well to the high levels of care provided which raises their levels of confidence and supports them in their personal independence to explore and try out new experiences. For example, a baby enjoys using his hands and mouth to explore the texture and taste of gloop. He receives lots of positive encouragement from the childminder and shows enjoyment as he babbles with delight and covers himself and everything around him in green gloop. Under the childminder's watchful eye he wanders around the living room

exploring his environment, selecting different toys and provision. He watches with amazement and interest as the childminder shows him how to operate simple electronic toys that sing, play music and light up.

The childminder has a good awareness of the individual needs of those children attending. She provides them with lots of reassurance and encouragement to develop their social and communication skills. A range of themes and topics are planned ahead to promote children's learning and introduce them to the wider world. For example, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, St Patrick's and St. George's Day, Easter and National Pet Week have been covered through a range of creative activities that can be adapted to cater for those present. The childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to look up information and suggestions to enable her to support children's development and provide them with appropriate activities. Children have free access to tubs and crates of play provision that is alternated on a weekly basis to provide children with suitable choices of stimulating and appropriate toys that cover the range of learning needs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are supported well. All the necessary written records, paperwork and documentation is in place to enable the parents and childminder to work together. Parents are well informed about the levels of care their children receive through access to written policies and procedures detailing the childminder's practices. For example, behaviour management and promoting equal opportunities. Clear discussions and the use of a daily diary ensures that both parties are well informed about particular needs. Good relationships have been formed with parents to enable the childminder to cater to the children's individual needs and provide them with continuity of care through a consistent approach. Clear and transparent systems enable parents to make informed decisions about the quality of care their children receive. A written complaints procedure is in place and shared with parents. However, it does not currently fully incorporate up-to-date legislation, nor is there a system in place for recording and sharing any complaints received.

Children have a good introduction to the local community through visits and trips to local places of interest. For example, regular contact with other childminders and minded children through the local childminding network group, pick-ups to local schools, and visits to parks, toddler groups and the library. Children have a good introduction to the wider world in which they live. A range of themes and topics covered throughout the year raise children's awareness of celebrations and festivals from around the world. They have access to books, dolls and activities to provide them with positive images of diversity. The childminder has a sufficient awareness of disabilities and range of learning needs to enable her to provide appropriate levels of support to children in her care.

Children are well behaved. The childminder is a positive role model and provides children with clear boundaries and expectations to enable them to make a positive contribution towards their learning. They are taught to be polite, share, take turns and

consider the feelings of those around them.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder uses her time effectively to meet the needs of those children attending. She is well organised, planning in advance a suitable and stimulating range of activities. She has formed good relationships with the children, who respond favourably to her positive interaction and support. Good use has been made of the environment to provide children with clear space to explore freely and safely and meet the needs of their all-round development and care. The childminder has a positive attitude to training and updating her skills. She is about to attend first aid training and hopes to do child protection and health and hygiene at a later date to further improve her practices.

Documentation, records and written policies and procedures are well organised. There are effective procedures in place to promote a strong partnership with parents and support the welfare of the children. Although, not all procedures and required qualifications for continued registration are up-to-date. The childminder is aware of her responsibilities with regard to her registration. She ensures children are safe around other adults and visitors through good levels of supervision, both in her home and when on outings. 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 the last inspection.

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 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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- update procedures for managing complaints and develop a system for recording any complaints that are available to parents on request to reflect changes to legislation

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