



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | EY332172 |
| Inspection date | 28 September 2006 |
| Inspector | Lorraine Sparey |

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| 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 2006. She lives with her husband and 15 year old son in Poole. The whole of the ground floor of the chalet bungalow is used for childminding. Part of the garden is fenced off for outdoor play. The family have two dogs and a cat that have contact with the children.

A maximum of six children may attend at any one time. There is currently one child on roll. The childminder holds a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 2 and 3 in Childcare and Education. She has also completed a NVQ level 3 in special needs. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding support group. She takes the children to local parent and toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and general well-being is supported by the childminder implementing appropriate procedures. Children are encouraged to wash their hands before snack, and in the case of younger children the childminder supports them. Babies are changed frequently to ensure that they are comfortable at all times. The childminder follows suitable procedures when changing nappies, such as using baby wipes and cleaning the mat with antibacterial spray before washing her hands. Children's health and welfare in the event of an accident is supported as the childminder maintains a first aid certificate. However, written permission from parents is not sought to ensure that any specific requirements are in place.

Children's dietary requirements are respected. The parents provide their children's food which is occasionally supplemented by the childminder with snacks, such as a variety of fruit. The food provided is stored and prepared appropriately. Children are encouraged to drink plenty throughout the day to maintain their fluid levels. Posters displayed in the play room show examples of healthy foods which prompts discussion with the childminder to increase children's awareness.

Children enjoy daily opportunities to go for walks in the community. They visit music and movement groups and the local park to increase their physical skills. Children also go swimming with the childminder to the local pool. Babies' home routines with regard to feeding and sleeping are followed closely. The childminder liaises with the parent to ensure their child's needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well maintained and welcoming environment. They enjoy playing in the designated play room where the toys are easily accessible. Children choose from a range of quality toys and resources. All the toys and equipment conform to British standard and are checked and cleaned on a regular basis to maintain their suitability.

Children learn about safety issues through discussion with the childminder. Children's understanding is reinforced through playing with resources that promote their knowledge of safety issues. For example, a range of puzzles that promote road safety and safety within the home. The childminder works hard to ensure that the environment is safe and well maintained using a range of safety equipment. This means children can explore their environment safely. Children are protected on outings because the childminder implements good procedures. During a recent visit to the beach with other childminders, they created a safe and secure environment on the beach with gazebos. The childminder ensures that she has all emergency contact numbers and appropriate documentation to support children's health and safety whilst out of the home.

The childminder demonstrates sound knowledge in recognising signs of abuse. She has devised a policy which is shared with parents to ensure that they are aware of her responsibility in

protecting children from harm and neglect. However, she does not possess correct understanding of the reporting system which would ensure a speedy response, and protect children from harm should concerns arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, content and very settled with the childminder. They enjoy a wide range of play opportunities. Children benefit from the positive interaction from the childminder. She spends all her time playing and talking with them, encouraging their language development. Activities and toys are changed frequently to maintain children's interest. One child enjoys completing a simple puzzle with the childminder, she describes the pieces as they take them out, such as aeroplane, car and train. The childminder praises and claps 'well done, you are clever'. The child smiles. Children become absorbed in their favourite story. The childminder encourages the child to make the noises of the animals in the book. They regularly visit the library where the children can choose their own books.

Children enjoy regular visits to a rhyming group where they learn nursery rhymes whilst playing musical instruments, specifically designed for younger children. They attend various toddler groups where they are able to socialise with other children. Children regularly visit the local park to feed the ducks. The childminder is very aware of the children's interests and provides a range of play opportunities specifically designed to help them develop and learn.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are well met because the childminder has effective procedures in place to ensure that she is fully aware of them. These include comprehensive settling in procedures and discussing children's individual likes, dislikes and specific requirements with the parents. Children's confidence and self-esteem develops. They each have their own book which is updated weekly with photographs of them involved in a variety of activities and outings. Initially the childminder helps the children and as their confidence grows they are able to choose their own favourite photographs and creative achievements to put in the book. This is shared with parents to ensure that they are able to feel included. Children are well behaved and respond to the childminder's consistent approach and continual praise. The childminder is an extremely positive role model in the way she speaks to the children.

Children learn about their community through regular visits to the library, local park and various structured groups. They also take part in charitable events, increasing their awareness of valuing others. For example, the children take part in a pedal push to raise money for 'Child Line'. The childminder pushes the younger children in the buggy to ensure that they are fully included. Children celebrate the range of festivals throughout the year. The childminder increases children's awareness by providing a range of resources that supports diversity. Children with specific requirements are extremely well supported. The childminder has completed comprehensive training in special needs. She has effective procedures in place to ensure that children are able to reach their full potential regardless of their ability.

Children benefit from the secure relationships developed with the parents. The childminder provides comprehensive and detailed information about the service she provides and their child's progress. Each child has a daily diary detailing how they have been that day. The childminder makes time for the parents to ensure that they feel confident.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and well maintained, homely environment. The childminder is well organised in her routines to ensure that she spends all her time playing and talking with the children. The childminder has devised a range of policies, procedures to support her current practice. She provides parents with an initial pack to ensure that they are fully informed. Her responsibility in protecting children from harm and neglect is supported by her policy. However, her knowledge and confidence in reporting concerns to the appropriate authorities is basic. The childminder has all the required documentation with the exception of written permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

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

Since registration 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:

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):

- obtain written parental permission for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment

- increase knowledge and understanding of reporting child protection concerns

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