



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139235
Inspection date	27 June 2006
Inspector	Brenda Joan Flewitt
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 was registered in 1996. She lives in Preston, near Weymouth, Dorset. The ground floor is used for childminding, with sleeping facilities provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently caring for six children under the age of four years and four school aged children, on a part time basis. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight. She delivers and collects children from local schools and pre-schools. The childminder has a caged love bird which is kept in the lounge. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy home. They learn good practices in their own personal hygiene through discussion and example provided by the childminder. For example, school-aged children use the ground floor facilities independently, they wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food. The childminder wipes the younger children's hands before their lunch. Children are protected from the spread of infections through the childminder's procedures such as providing hygienic resources for hand washing and nappy changing. Parents are made aware that children must not attend if they are sick.

Children have daily fresh air and exercise. They regularly go for walks and visit the local play park, where they practise skills as they climb, slide and swing. The older children walk to and from school at the beginning and end of their school day. Children are offered drinks regularly, and their individual cups are made readily available to them. School aged children are offered a biscuit and sometimes fruit on their return from school. Younger children make choices from food supplied by parents, but are not always offered a snack to prevent them becoming tired and hungry before lunch time.

Children's medication and accidents are managed appropriately. There is a first aid box which is easily accessible, however some of the resources are out of date. Clear records are kept, but consent for seeking medical treatment in an emergency is not in place for every child.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children's safety is well promoted both inside and when on outings. They are cared for in safe and secure, well maintained premises where hazards and risks are identified and minimised. The childminder has put measures in place to help prevent accidents. These include a safety gate to prevent access to stairs, socket covers and safe storage of hazardous substances. The good security system protects children from uninvited visitors and ensures that they cannot leave the building unsupervised. Children move around in safety as they play. The childminder makes sure that toys are tidied away after use so that they do not pose a risk of children falling over them. Children use well maintained equipment to keep them safe as they sleep, eat and travel, and use toys and resources that are kept in good condition.

Children are kept safe on outings through the childminder's routine procedures. These include using harnesses and reins, risk assessing venues and making sure that contact numbers are readily available. Children start to learn to keep themselves safe. They are involved in crossing roads safely and are made aware of the dangers of talking to strangers and touching unknown animals. For example, children take turns in pressing the button and watching for the 'green light'. Children are included in practising the evacuation procedure. This means they start to know what is expected if they must leave the building in an emergency, which helps towards their safety in a real situation.

The childminder's sound understanding of child protection issues and the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures contributes towards the children's welfare and safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and secure in their childminder's care. They make good relationships with her and each other. They learn to be kind to each other, share and take turns. Children develop confidence in making their needs known as they can be sure of a friendly and caring response.

Children are involved in a variety of activities and experiences that promote their learning. These include role play, construction, dough, art and craft, books and stories, small world toys, games and puzzles. They enjoy positive interaction from the childminder. She consistently talks with the children so they hear and learn about colours, shape and number as they play. For example, two-year-olds count and recognise colours as they help put a train track together. They use their imagination as they mould dough into shapes and make 'food' that is 'too hot'.

Children use a suitable range of play provision which is appropriate for their age, however the storage arrangements limit children selecting equipment for themselves and making spontaneous choices. Younger children tend to all do the same activity at the same time.

Children's days include a range of visits which encourage them to develop a positive awareness of the world around them. They regularly go for walks to feed the ducks or collect leaves which they use for art work. They enjoy riding on the bus into the town where they help to choose new resources such as play dough. During outings to places like the Sea Life Centre they observe animals and explore large play equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well. They respond positively to the childminder's praise and encouragement for effort and achievement which helps build their self-esteem. They are keen to help tidy away toys when they have finished with them. Their squabbles are managed positively with distraction and understanding. The childminder gets to know each child as an individual through positive support in their activities and regular communication with parents. Children start to develop a positive awareness of people's differences through discussion and as they see positive images within their play equipment.

Children benefit from the childminder's friendly relationship with parents. She offers daily opportunities to exchange information verbally, and completes contracts and records of children's information. This contributes towards meeting individual needs and making sure any additional needs are met. However, there is limited written information supplied to parents for them to refer to.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her premises and structure of the day appropriately to allow children to be active in a safe environment, rest as individual needs require, and enjoy activities outside the home. However, the organisation of resources and some activities restrict children's independence in making their own choices. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

All legally required records and documentation are in place, up-to-date and completed clearly. However, some written parental consent is missing for some children.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that the childminder developed her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, and that potential hazards in the patio area were made inaccessible to children.

The childminder has attended a child protection course since the last inspection, which has updated her knowledge and contributes towards children's safety and welfare. The uneven slabs on the patio have been repaired which has reduced the risk of children's injury.

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):

- ensure children's health is promoted by offering a healthy snack as routine
- review the organisation of play equipment, so that children can make spontaneous choices and select for themselves

- make sure that parental permission to seek medical treatment in an emergency is obtained for every child.

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