



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	139394
<b>Inspection date</b>	31 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Samantha Powis
<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 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 to care for children since 1989. She lives in a house with her husband, in a small village close to Sherborne in Dorset. Her husband also acts as her assistant. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, toilet and rest facilities are provided on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden area for outdoor play. The family have two ponies and a tortoise.

The childminder is registered to care for up to four children at any one time, there are currently three children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to be healthy due to the childminder providing them with nutritious meals and snacks. She offers them fresh fruit and vegetables, which encourages them to enjoy healthy options. The childminder discusses children's individual dietary needs with parents, to ensure these are respected.

Children are cared for in a clean home. They follow effective hygiene procedures to promote their health and well being. They are encouraged to wash their hands prior to having a snack and after using the toilet and are provided with paper towels. This minimises the risk of cross infection. The childminder takes positive action to protect children from the sun. She ensures they wear sun hats and applies sun cream according to the parents wishes. Children's ongoing health needs are supported as the childminder is qualified in first aid and has a suitable first aid kit. She maintains records of any accidents or administered medications, to ensure accurate information is shared with parents.

Children's health is promoted as they are encouraged to engage in physical activity on a daily basis. They use the equipment that the childminder makes available to them such as climbing frames, swings and wheeled vehicles. They use the outdoor area regularly, which benefits their all round health and well-being.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and well maintained home, which helps them to feel secure and settled. Children remain safe as the childminder ensures they are supervised by herself or her assistant at all times. However, some safety issues have not been addressed, with means children are at risk. For example, sharp equipment is accessible in the bathroom and electrical sockets are not protected in all areas accessible to the children.

Children have access to an interesting range of safe and suitable toys and equipment. This is stored well to allow them easy independent access. Space allows for them to play comfortably both indoors and out, and a quiet rest area is available for those children who need a sleep. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures which supports her in her role of keeping children safe.

The childminder has thought through an emergency evacuation procedure, however, she has not yet practised this with the children. This means that they are not familiar with it, and it has not been tried out to ensure it works effectively. She ensures fire protection equipment such as smoke alarms and fire blankets are in place and working appropriately.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Warm relationships are established between the childminder, her assistant and the minded children. They are relaxed and comfortable and made to feel part of the family. Children build caring relationships with other minded children. The positive interaction between the children and the childminder increases children's sense of belonging.

Children have opportunities to make independent choices in their play. This is due to the interesting range of toys and resources which are stored at child height, allowing children easy access. Children enjoy being involved in a variety of activities, which includes opportunities for them to engage in painting and creative activities and play with the sand and outdoor toys.

The childminder has a flexible approach towards planning activities for the children, and allows the children to guide daily activities. She has obtained a copy of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, however, she has not used this or other guidance to fully promote learning or monitor children's progress.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Minded children are treated as individuals, which helps them to feel secure. The childminder seeks information about each child's needs, however, this is not recorded. Children's awareness of valuing and respecting differences is not fully supported. This is due to the childminder's limited understanding of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice. She provides the children with some basic resources such as books and dolls to encourage their awareness, but does not always use appropriate language when talking to the children about diversity.

Children's behaviour is managed effectively by the childminder and her assistant. She takes time to help children understand right from wrong, which helps them to manage their own behaviour. She uses lots of praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour. Children are encouraged to be polite to each other, as the childminder acts as a good role model. She encourages them to share and take turns. As a result of this, children are respectful and demonstrate an understanding of the childminder's consistent expectations.

Effective relationships are established with the parents. The childminder speaks to them on a daily basis, ensuring she is familiar with children's changing needs. She also makes sure their achievements are shared. Parents are not fully informed to enable them to work together with the childminder to support the children's health and well-being. For example, the childminder has no written information about her policy regarding the exclusion of sick children, and does not inform parents of her complaints procedure.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled within the homely environment. Space within the home is organised effectively to support the children's needs, giving them space to play, eat and rest in comfort.

However, not all safety measures have been taken to fully protect them from harm. The childminder does not always consider developing her own knowledge and skills to enable her to support the children fully. For example, in the area of anti-discriminatory practice.

Children's ongoing safety and well-being is compromised, as the childminder has not kept Ofsted informed of changes within her registration. Children are using an area of the home that is not included in the registration. This is a breach of the childminder's conditions of registration.

Documentation is generally used effectively to support children's ongoing well-being. Records are kept securely to ensure confidentiality is maintained. The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to improve her understanding of child protection procedures. She has attended training and now has access to valuable literature, to support her in this area. She demonstrates a clear understanding of the procedures to follow, should she have a concern about a child's well-being, or of what to do if an allegation were to be made against her or her family. This knowledge and understanding supports her in her role of protecting children from harm.

### **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 are familiar with the emergency evacuation procedures
- increase knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities
- provide parents with information about the complaints procedure, which includes details of how to contact Ofsted

- ensure Ofsted are informed of any significant changes which affect the registration.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)