



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	143890
Inspection date	11 December 2006
Inspector	Dinah Round
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered to care for children in 1997. She lives with her husband and three children aged five, 11, and 15 years. They live in a house on a residential estate in Ensbury Park, Bournemouth, Dorset. Childminding is carried out on both levels of the premises, with sleep provision on the first floor. Toilet facilities are accessible on both levels. Children have access to an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The family have a dog and a guinea pig, to which children have supervised access.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time. She currently cares for two children on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from the spread of infection through the procedures followed by the childminder. These include the provision of individual flannels and towels for each child, and excluding children who have infectious illness. Children are taught the importance of washing their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children's ongoing health is suitably supported, as the childminder has a current first aid qualification. Parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is obtained for all children, although systems to record medication details are not sufficiently clear.

Children benefit from being offered healthy snacks and meals. This includes sandwiches, fresh fruit, yoghurt and regular drinks. The childminder encourages children to have the healthy options before they have any treats. She is aware of children's individual dietary needs and works closely with parents to encourage children to try new tastes. Children are involved in a variety of activities that give them opportunities for fresh air and exercise. In the garden they have use of various large play equipment, such as a climbing frame, which helps to develop their physical skills. Children also enjoy regular trips to the local parks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment where most hazards and risks are identified and minimised. The childminder puts measures in place to protect children, such as safe storage of hazardous substances and safety gates on the stairs when caring for young children. Smoke alarms are fitted on both levels, and children learn what to do in an emergency due to regular evacuation practices. However, the fire blanket is not secured to the wall.

Children learn about how to keep themselves safe due to the childminder's gentle reminders during their play. For example, she asks the children not to play on the stairs but to continue the game with their 'rocket' models downstairs. Children learn about road safety when on outings, the childminder holds their hands when they cross the road to ensure they stay safe. Children have access to a varied range of age appropriate toys and equipment.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of how to recognise possible signs and symptoms of abuse which helps to safeguard children. However, she is less clear of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's relaxed and homely environment. They relate well to the childminder and other children, and form positive relationships. Children are treated as part of the family which helps them to feel secure.

Children are offered a variety of play activities, including painting, papier mache, plasticine, plus use of arts and craft materials. They have opportunities to make choices of what they want to play with. For example, they use their imagination well to create their models of 'rockets' and 'tanks' from the little lego and proudly share their creations with others. Children enjoy manipulating the playdough and use the rollers and cutters with good control to create different shapes and animals. Children are able to watch television as a way of relaxing after a busy morning at school.

Children get involved in experiences outside the home which includes weekly visits to a local parent and toddler group. They visit local shops to buy items for their packed lunches or planned cooking activities. This helps to build their confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is inadequate.

Informal daily discussion between the childminder and parents means there is a regular exchange of information about children's care and well being. However, the childminder has no clear system for managing complaints. She is unaware of the regulation requiring her to keep a record of complaints suitable for parents to see.

Children are respected as individuals. They receive well balanced attention from the childminder and she makes sure that everyone is able to join in the activities. Children are encouraged to make decisions about their play which promotes a sense of belonging. Children get involved in the local community, through regular outings and attending the local parent and toddler group.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear explanations and expectations of how to behave. They learn to share and take turns as the childminder helps them to think about each other. For example, she explains to a child that the lego model belongs to the other child and not to build on it. Children receive praise and encouragement for their achievements which helps build their self-esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The satisfactory organisation of the premises and resources means that children are able to play in a suitably safe environment. There are separate areas provided for eating and sleeping, with regular use of the garden for outdoor play provision. The childminder has recently attended training to update her knowledge in first-aid, however she has limited knowledge of the up-to-date procedures to follow with concerns to safeguard children.

Some of the required records are in place and appropriately maintained. However, some aspects are not sufficiently clear, such as medication records and how complaints are managed. Children's records of information are in place including written parental consents. Although parents see the registration certificate at the beginning of an arrangement, the childminder does not display the certificate as required. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that children have access to materials that reflect people with disabilities. She has purchased more books that provide positive images of diversity for children, and recognises the importance of continual development of resources.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 to 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop knowledge of the legal requirements in dealing with complaints from parents
- update documentation to make sure that clear information is recorded in all aspects.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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