



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139294
Inspection date	10 January 2007
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 good. 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 2000. She lives with her partner and two children, aged 12 and eight years in Bridport, Dorset. The ground floor is used for childminding which includes a lounge and kitchen. Toilet and sleeping facilities are provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The family have two cats and a pet rabbit, to which the children have supervised access.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding three children under the age of five years. She also cares for children over the age of eight.

The childminder holds an NNEB qualification. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and a childminding network quality assurance scheme.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is well promoted. They are cared for in a clean and tidy family home where the childminder maintains a hygienic environment through regular cleaning routines. Children learn good practices for their own personal hygiene. For example, they use wet wipes to clean their hands before handling food, they use individual flannels and towels and sometimes brush their teeth after meals. Children are protected from the spread of infection through the childminder's routine procedures which includes making sure that pets are healthy and treated regularly, and a clear sickness policy which ensures parents know that children must not attend with infectious illnesses.

Children's medication and accidents are well managed. First aid resources are easily accessible both at home and when on outings, and the relevant records are completed accurately and signed by parents.

Children learn about what is good for them to eat through discussion and example provided by the childminder. She offers healthy options at snack time such as rice cakes, raisins or fruit. Children talk about healthy foods during activities such as role play, puzzles food tasting and looking at books. They always have access to their individual beakers so that they drink when they are thirsty. Children are involved in a good range of activities that promote physical development, both indoors and outdoors. These include walks, visits to the local play park where children use large equipment such as swings and slides, and indoor soft play where they crawl, scramble and climb, developing confidence in a safe environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in safe and secure, well maintained premises where hazards and risks are identified and minimised. The childminder puts measures in place to help prevent accidents such as the safe storage of hazardous substances and socket covers. The external doors are kept locked therefore children are protected from uninvited visitors and are unable to leave the premises unsupervised.

The space available is organised appropriately so that children move around in safety as they choose activities, and during their play. They use a wide range of equipment that is well organised and kept in good condition. There is a variety of equipment available that helps keep them safe as they travel, eat and take part in practical tasks. These include appropriate car seats and restraints, buggies with harnesses and booster seats for dining chairs.

Children learn what is expected if they must leave the home in an emergency as they are involved in regular practises and discussion. This contributes towards their safety in a real situation. They are kept safe on outings through the childminder's routine procedures which include risk assessing venues, setting clear boundaries and making sure she takes a phone and contact numbers with her. Children start to develop an awareness of keeping themselves safe when

crossing roads. They are encouraged to look and listen for traffic, and enjoy 'pressing the button to make the lights change to green'.

The childminder's secure understanding of recognising signs of abuse and following the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures contributes towards children's safety and welfare. She has a clear written policy which she shares with parents and keeps up to date with procedures through training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and secure in the care of their childminder. They make good relationships with her, her family and each other. They are confident to make their needs known as they can be sure of a friendly, caring response. Children are cared for in an environment where they are encouraged to be kind and helpful to each other. For example, a four-year-old spontaneously offers to help a two-year-old put on dressing up clothes, and they enjoy cuddling up together looking at books and photos.

Children are involved in a broad range of activities that encourage them to learn in all areas of development. These include role play, books, construction, art and craft, small world toys, dough, singing, games and puzzles. Children use a good range of play provision and resources which are well organised and stored in an outside walk-in cupboard. Children choose activities they would like and the childminder makes sure there is a selection of resources available in the main play area. For example, children ask for dressing up clothes and 'babies', a pop-up game and a floor puzzle. Other options arranged in the lounge area include books, plastic bricks and farm animals and a garage with cars. One child loves to dress up as a 'princess' while the other acts out a real life situation as she cares for her 'baby'. When a child finds a piece from another construction set it reminds her that she would like to play with 'Popoids' and asks the childminder to get them. However, children cannot always make spontaneous choices from a full range of resources.

Children enjoy positive interaction from the childminder who talks with them about events in their lives, includes counting and colours in conversation during activities, and listens to the children, valuing their contribution. Children are interested and keen to take part in the activities offered.

Children's days include a wide variety of visits outside the home where they meet other people, use different equipment and explore their local environment. Children recall with pleasure visits to places such as a farm where they have seen various animals, and how much they like picnics with friends. Regular visits to the library give children the opportunity to choose new books for themselves. They often go for a walk in the local area to look at items of interest or collect objects to bring home such as leaves and twigs. All this helps children develop a positive attitude to the world around them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children behave well. They are encouraged to share and take turns through routine and in their play. They help pack away toys when they have finished with them, and are expected to display good manners such as 'please and thank you' when making requests. Children receive much praise and encouragement from the childminder for effort and achievement which helps build their self esteem.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging. The childminder knows them well as individuals and forms an important part of their lives. For example, she is invited to attend events like a ballet performance, and offers support for parents to allow children to take part in chosen classes such as 'trampolining'. Children like to see photos of themselves in the childminder's home and enjoy celebrations, for their birthdays and other festivals, organised by the childminder. For example, a two-year-old remembers with excitement having a cake for her birthday, and a four-year-old describes events depicted in photographs such as a Christmas party. Children start to have a positive awareness of people's differences as they use many resources that reflect diversity, including dolls, books and dressing up clothes.

Children benefit from the childminder's very good relationships with parents. She promotes a friendly yet professional approach. Parents receive useful information about the setting in the form of a welcome pack, contracts and written policies and procedures. She offers daily opportunities to exchange information verbally, or via notes placed in lunch boxes. This all contributes towards meeting children's individual needs and ensuring any additional requirements are addressed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children gain from the childminder's commitment to developing her role through training and her membership of a quality assurance scheme. She has regular contact with the network co-ordinator and attends meetings which keeps her up-to-date with various aspects of child care.

The effective organisation of the premises, structure of the day and documentation means that children are active in a safe environment, eat and rest according to individual needs and enjoy activities outside the home. The storage arrangements for play provision sometimes means that children cannot easily select resources for themselves. Children benefit from the childminder's regular contact with another childminder. In the event of the childminder's absence due to holiday or sickness, children settle more easily with an alternative childminder they already know.

All the required documentation and records are in place, very well organised and completed accurately. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that systems were developed further for the recording of any medicines administered to children.

The childminder has increased the detail she records after administering medicines to children to include the specific dosage given. Therefore, promoting their health further.

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 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 good. 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):

- review the organisation of play provision, so that children can make spontaneous choices from a full range.

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