



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	100408
<b>Inspection date</b>	22 January 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Maria Lumley
<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 good. 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 1990. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Westbourne, Bournemouth. The childminder is registered to care for a total of six children at any one time. She is also registered to provide overnight care for two children aged one to eight years. There are nine children currently on roll. The children use the children's lounge, dining room, lounge and conservatory. Children sleep in the spare bedroom on the first floor; toilet facilities are on the ground floor.

There is a secure rear garden, which children access through the conservatory or back door, this is mainly grassed with outdoor play activities available. There is a large summerhouse which the children can use for physical play for example table tennis. The family have two cats.

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 an environment that is clean and well maintained. They are encouraged to learn about hygiene through daily routines and support from the childminder. For example, the childminder supervises the children as they wash and dry their hands prior to snack time. They use anti-bacterial soap and individual towels to minimise the spread of infection. However, hygiene standards are not consistent at lunch time when a communal cloth is used to wipe all children's faces and work surfaces. Consequently, children's health is compromised. The childminder maintains clear records of any accidents and any medication administered to ensure children's medical needs are met appropriately.

Children are appropriately nourished as the childminder provides a well balanced and nutritious range of food. Children enjoy light meals, such as sliced fruit and vegetables, sandwiches and yoghurts. They are provided with regular drinks and dietary requirements are adhered to at all times. This contributes to children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle.

Children's physical health is promoted as they enjoy daily fresh air and exercise in all seasons. However, they are not always appropriately clothed in the Winter and their bodies become cold. They use the well equipped garden, local play parks and beaches to develop new physical skills. For example, the children successfully move their bodies to sustain the movement of the swings, they confidently climb steps, balance and jump. Therefore, children are developing their physical skills in a positive manner

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming indoor and outdoor environment. The secure garden is particularly well equipped with play equipment to promote physical skills and to enable children to enjoy imaginative play. The childminder ensures that risks are minimized for children through the safety measures that are in place. For example, a stair gate prevents children from going upstairs unescorted. However, cleaning substances in the toilet are accessible to the children and compromise their safety. Children learn to understand about keeping themselves safe on outings and when travelling in the car through simple safety rules. For example, all the children are strapped into appropriate car seats. One child explains, "It is to stop me falling out". The children take care when walking in public places. They hold onto the pushchair and walk with their carer. As they cross roads the children know to "stop, look and listen" and do so without prompting. The childminder allows the older children to run ahead when they reach the beach, giving them clear instructions with how far they can go, the children respond immediately when the childminder calls out "Stop". This provides the children with freedom and independence whilst maintaining their safety. Children have use of a range of good quality, developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and resources which the childminder checks regularly to ensure they are clean, in good condition and safe for them to use. These are well organised in child height containers and drawers to encourage choice and independent access. Children are well protected because the childminder has all the required documents and procedures in place to

promote their safety and welfare. For example, she holds a first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children confidently approach their carer for support and comfort. The childminder is quick to respond to their needs, consequently children are secure and settled. There are very good levels of interaction between the children and their carer. The childminder dedicates her time to ensuring that the children are kept stimulated and engaged in their play. She asks them questions to extend their learning. For example, when eating their snack she asks them, "What shape is your sandwich", the children call out, "It's a square" and "It's a circle". Toys and resources are readily available and children show confidence in choosing from a stimulating range of experiences. These suit the children's needs and cover all areas of development. Children benefit from weekly visits to a local crèche where they have access to additional resources and further opportunities to socialise and learn skills such as sharing and co-operation. The children have been visiting the beach each week to watch diggers move sand from one site to another. The children are fascinated as they watch the large machinery and workmen as they complete the task. Children learn from the good range of resources, outings and activities, their emotional, physical, social and intellectual capabilities are developed.

Younger children benefit from a close relationship with the childminder, she listens and responds to gestures and non-verbal communication helping babies to become skilful communicators. Children are able to learn social skills, such as sharing and building relationships as they socialise with the older children and the childminder. Children thrive within the warm relationships being developed.

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a varied range of activities and resources which promote a positive view of the world around them. For example, dolls and books reflect faces from different cultures. The children learn about different cultures as they celebrate festivals such as Divali, Hanukah and Christmas. The childminder sponsors children from India and Senegal and shares their photographs with the minded children. They use maps and globes to learn more about the countries and the children's lives. This encourages the children to consider children less fortunate than themselves and means children's awareness of diversity is encouraged. The children visit an elderly neighbour each day and sing her songs, this promotes a positive and caring attitude to people in their community. Activities offered to children are age-appropriate and non-discriminatory. All children have equal opportunity to play with all toys and resources. All children are treated with equal concern.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude towards behaviour management. Strategies used are adapted for the ages of children attending. For example, positive reinforcement helps them learn right from wrong. Children feel acknowledged as important individuals because the childminder gives attention for positive behaviour. For example, one

child holds open the gate at the entrance of the park to allow the childminder to walk through with the double buggy. The child also helps a younger child to put on their boots. The child is thanked for this considerate behaviour. This builds their self-esteem and confidence. Children behave well and make the most of their time with the childminder. Children are valued as individuals. Their needs are met as their normal daily routine is shared verbally with parents each day. Parents are kept well informed of the care their children receive by discussion with the childminder and detailed daily diaries. Children are very happy with the childminder and make good progress. Children receive continuity of care due to the good partnership that has been established with parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's welfare and enjoyment is promoted by the appropriate organisation of the setting. For example, the childminder prepares children's lunches prior to their arrival to ensure that she is able to focus her time working directly with the children. However, the organisation of hand washing, clothing and location of some cleaning substances compromise children's health and safety in some areas. Routines are in line with children's individual needs and effectively support children's care and development. Children feel very much at home and at ease in their surroundings. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

A number of well written policies support the childminder's practice. This effectively promotes the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities and organises her service effectively to promote children's care and well-being. Required adult-child ratios are met and provide appropriate levels of care and supervision to ensure children are appropriately supported. Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to training. She regularly updates her knowledge and implements new skills to promote positive outcomes for the children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to update policies to include current legislation and procedures to follow if an allegation of abuse is made whilst the child is in the childminder's care. The childminder has addressed this by amending the child protection policy in line with legislation.

## **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 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):

- ensure children are appropriately clothed for outings in cold weather
- make sure good hygiene procedures are used when washing children's hands and faces following lunch
- ensure cleaning substances in the bathroom are inaccessible to children

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)