



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	140931
Inspection date	18 July 2005
Inspector	Mary Daniel

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 outstanding. 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 for 26 years and lives on the first floor of a detached house situated on the outskirts of Weymouth. Minded children have use of a dedicated play room, an open plan dining/kitchen room, bathroom and a bedroom for sleeping purposes only. There is an enclosed outdoor patio area accessed directly from the dining room. The children also have use of an enclosed, mainly grassed garden.

The childminder can care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years, at any one time. Overnight care may be provided for one child. There are currently four

children on roll. The childminder is qualified in childcare and continues to attend ongoing child care related training courses. She is the chairperson of the local childminding group and is a member of the Dorset and Poole Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's awareness of healthy living is consistently and effectively promoted through a range of interesting and purposeful activities. For example, they visit the dentist, optician and health visitor and talk about caring for their teeth, eyes and bodies. This awareness is significantly enhanced through the general daily routines and discussion, and children clearly understand the importance of washing hands frequently to stop the spread of germs. They are very well protected from cross-contamination as they recognise and use their individual characterised hand towels. They know not to share hair brushes and have their own 'cuddlies' for when they have a rest. Children enjoy lots of fresh air activities and relish their frequent walks on the beach. They use up lots of energy as they ride happily along the sea-front esplanade on their bikes and scooters. They develop very good co-ordination as they skilfully kick a football, and as they enjoy dancing to an action music tape. As a consequence of regular exercise children move confidently and with good control.

Children's understanding of healthy eating is very well encouraged. They willingly help to choose a variety of fruit and vegetables on a shopping trip. They discuss different foods together and make a picture poster of those that are good for them. They readily eat their sandwiches before a sweet item at lunchtime. Children eagerly eat apples, encouraged effectively by the childminder who cuts them up to their preference. Their particular dietary needs are respected and managed effectively in liaison with parents, and their good health is well-monitored through use of appropriate records.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is extremely well emphasised. They learn how to keep themselves safe through exciting and meaningful activities and events. For example, they become actively involved with a childminders 'emergency day' and meet the fire fighters, police and ambulance men. They all talk with interest about safety in the park, with animals and which plants may cause them harm. Children learn to walk safely on outings and know to hold onto the handle of the buggy. They understand where it is safe to run and scoot. As a consequence, children develop a good understanding of dangers and how to protect themselves, and still enjoy a good balance of freedom within the safe limits set by the childminder.

Children play safely in the welcoming, clean and tidy home. Their particular needs have been carefully considered with the use of space and resources. For example, they play in a comfortable, dedicated playroom. Children move freely within the well-organised play areas and can easily access the enclosed outdoor patio. Their safety in the home is given priority and fire drills are discussed and practiced. Children's independence skills are very well promoted as they independently make choices from the easily accessible toy boxes. They know where their favourite doll is and find the brightly coloured bricks to make their models. They use high quality equipment appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, children each have their own brightly coloured child sized chair and toddlers sit securely in a clean, comfortable highchair.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are happy and eagerly settle to play. They become totally engrossed in the exciting and purposeful play activities provided. For example, younger children show great concentration and pleasure as they make play dough animal shapes. Their development of fine motor skills is promoted very well, as the childminder gently guides them in managing child sized rolling pins and shape cutters. They excitedly learn about number, shape and colour as they count how many red frogs and long sausages they make. This understanding is fully promoted in all activities, for example, when on a local outing, children find the red gate and look at the numbers and letters on road signs.

All children make excellent progress as the childminder effectively recognises their individual ages and stages of development. She has completed training on the Birth to Three Matters framework and provides related and inspiring play activities, which are adapted to enable each child to feel achievement and to learn through their play. For example, children's early communication skills are extremely well supported with the established high-quality adult-child interaction. Young children are inquisitive and confidently ask questions and express their own thoughts and ideas. Children are highly motivated in their play and use their initiative in extending their ideas. For example, they put cushions under a rug to make hills, and laugh with glee as their cars 'zoom' down. They explore their environment with pleasure as they search for shells on the beach.

Close and caring relationships are formed and children go readily to the childminder for hugs. They feel secure and well-cherished in the home. This results in children developing a strong sense of self and they feel valued and important. They share responsibility for decisions on activities, for example, in choice of outings. Children have great fun as they ride on an open-top bus to see a local lighthouse. They enjoy their regular visits to a local sea-life centre, where they attentively watch the baby sea horses and penguins. This interest is significantly enhanced on their return, as they make their own 'bowl' ponds in which to swim their 'fishes' and they discover more about sea-life in their story books. Children's uniqueness is recognised and nurtured and they are content and happy. They benefit greatly from the laughter and affection offered by the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's behaviour is exemplary. Younger children share and take turns happily. They develop a very clear sense of right and wrong and show respect for others. For example, a child instinctively helps his younger friend in a game of cars. The childminder has high expectations and maintains a consistent and reassuring approach. Children benefit from her as a good role model and they naturally say please and thank you. They begin to take responsibility for their own behaviour, and happily help to tidy up their toys together.

All children are highly valued and welcomed. Their particular individual needs are very well recognised and activities adapted to enable each child to participate at their level and feel involved. Children share in the lives of others as they enjoy a range of ongoing and interesting play activities. For example, they celebrate different festivals and make a special tree for Eid, or create a wonderful Easter Bonnet. They confidently talk about their holidays and family life and look at the different homes in which people live. They become naturally familiar with their local community on their regular walks and as they meet some elderly friends, or visit the post office.

Children's well-being is significantly enhanced by the positive, open and honest relationships the childminder forms with parents. Parents are kept very well informed of the provision offered and the childminder is pro-active in seeking their views on their children's interests and abilities. For example, through ongoing daily discussions and the child care information displayed within the home. Their involvement is welcomed and the childminder gives sensitive support, while respecting all parents wishes. As a consequence, children's individual needs are consistently recognised and constructively supported.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's welfare is greatly enhanced by the childminder's continual commitment to ongoing improvement and development of her provision. For example she regularly attends child care related courses to update her own knowledge. The highly skilled childminder effectively uses this training to monitor and review her provision to ensure children's potential to develop is maximised. Policies and procedures are individual to the setting, and are positively implemented in practice. All required records relating to the health and well-being of each child are in place and careful consideration given to confidentiality in use. This effectively supports the childminder in offering high-quality care for children.

The very thorough organisation of the premises allows children the freedom to play safely, make informed choices in their play and feel safe and secure. Children benefit greatly from the well considered balance of quiet and active times during the day. For example, they relish their daily walks and games and are also content to play quietly and learn about size, shape, number and colour with their friends as they build a tunnel of bricks for the cars to go through. The childminder meets the needs of the

range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was set relating to the management of recording any administration of medication for children.

This has been appropriately met as the childminder now uses a clearly detailed form to record any medication given, and which also allows parents to give their written acknowledgement of any administration. A record of this is now kept with the child's file.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk