

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	139256
Inspection date	10 May 2007
Inspector	Samantha Powis

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 has been a registered childminder for 13 years. She lives with her husband and three children aged seven, 13 and 17 years in the village of Mosterton, near Beaminster. The whole of the ground floor is available for childminding offering a lounge, a conservatory playroom, and dining room. A bedroom on the first floor is used for sleep provision, and older children have access to the childminder's children's bedrooms for play. Toilet facilities are easily accessible on both levels. A garden at the rear of the premises provides outdoor play provision.

The childminder is registered to care for up to five children under the age of eight years. There are currently 18 children on roll attending on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about healthy lifestyles and benefit from being provided with nutritious snacks and meals during the day. They enjoy a tasty snack of fresh strawberries during the morning

and sometimes help to bake their own cakes. The children plant and grow their own fruit and vegetables, promoting their awareness of the benefits of healthy foods and supporting them in making healthy choices. Children have access to drinks at all times and are actively encouraged to drink plenty to promote their health and well-being. The childminder is aware of children's individual dietary needs and complies with them fully to ensure they remain healthy.

Children learn about the importance of following good hygiene practices throughout the day to promote their own health. For example, they are reminded to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. They use suitable resources, such as liquid soap and separate hand towels, to minimise the risk of cross infection. The childminder discusses with parents her policy regarding the exclusion of children who have an infectious illness. This reduces the chance of illnesses being passed on. Clear records are maintained of any accidents or administered medications, all are signed by parents which helps to support children's ongoing health. Children are protected in the event of a minor injury, as the childminder is trained to administer first aid.

Children have many opportunities to develop physical skills due to the outings and activities the childminder plans. They enjoy using the range of equipment in the garden, such as the slide, basketball hoop and trampoline. They regularly go to the park on the way home from school and get out in the fresh air each day, which helps to keep them fit and healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming safe home, where effective precautions are taken to protect them from harm. The childminder uses a good balance of supervision and effective safety measures to keep children safe, and adapts precautions according to the ages and individual needs of the children she is caring for. For example, the childminder has stair gates available for use when younger children attend. Children have independent access to a good selection of well maintained, age appropriate toys and suitable equipment. She stores items such as scissors which could be dangerous for younger children, out of reach, but makes sure older children can still access them, supporting their independence. Clear emergency evacuation procedures have been thought through, the childminder has practiced these with the minded children but not on a regular basis, meaning that not all children are familiar. Space is well organised to support children's safety. An area in the garden is set aside for large physical play equipment such as slides and swings. Children's safety when using this equipment is promoted as bark is used under the equipment to provide a safety surface. The childminder maintains clear and consistent boundaries, which helps to keep children safe. For example, they understand that only one person can use the trampoline at any time and that the netting must be securely in place before they can start to bounce.

The childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures which supports her in her role of safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled and have a warm relationship with the childminder. They benefit from the caring and fun interaction they receive from the childminder, who actively involves herself in the children's play throughout the day. The childminder offers children a good balance of planned activities and opportunities for them to choose and make up their

own play ideas. She organises her time well to ensure she can devote her attention to meeting the children's needs and promoting their learning.

Children benefit from regular outings such as visits to the library. They enjoy taking part in nature walks and treasure hunts, which increases their awareness and understanding of the local environment and their own community. The childminder suggests themes such as castles to the children and then encourages the children to suggest the types of activities they would like to do. She expertly adapts the activities to ensure they are suitable for all children from the youngest to the oldest. She provides suitable resources and suggests ideas to extend activities further. This ensures all children are able to participate at their own level, boosting confidence and self-esteem.

Children enthusiastically get involved in a variety of interesting and stimulating activities and play experiences. The childminder understands children's individual development needs well. She makes up fun games to promote the children's learning. For example, the children enjoy making towers with the bricks, sorting the different colours into groups and identifying the tallest and smallest towers. Children are encouraged to be independent, they choose what they want to do, and can select toys and equipment for themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel valued and included, as the childminder gives thoughtful consideration to their individual needs. They have a strong sense of belonging and really feel 'at home' with the childminder. Children learn to respect each other. Their awareness of the wider world is supported as they engage in activities such as building their own wigwam. To support the children's understanding further the childminder uses the library to obtain further information about people who live in tepees or wigwams.

Children behave well. They are familiar with the childminder's clear boundaries and expectations. She uses simple explanations and discussion to help them understand their own actions and the feelings of others. The childminder acts as a good role model, encouraging good manners and a kind and caring attitude. She consistently uses lots of praise and encouragement with the children, which helps them to feel proud of their achievements and encourages good behaviour.

Children's individual needs are continually discussed with parents, which helps to make sure all are clear about expectations. This contributes to children's overall well-being. Written records are maintained which enables the childminder to meet the individual needs of the children effectively. The childminder keeps parents well informed about their child's day, by allowing time for discussion. She regularly reviews contracts to ensure they continue to meet individual needs. She discusses her policies and procedures with parents, which helps to promote consistency and continuity for children. Although the childminder demonstrates that she would deal with any complaints from parents appropriately, she has not developed a system to record these or provided parents with information about the complaints procedure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are relaxed, settled and confident to explore within the welcoming, homely environment. Space is well organised to allow children to play freely with a wide range of

different activities both indoors and out. Safety is promoted well throughout. The childminder is aware of the need to keep Ofsted informed of any significant changes within the household, and makes sure that any household members are checked and vetted to ensure their suitability. This helps to ensure children are safe and well cared for. The childminder is committed to developing her own practices to support the needs of the children she cares for.

Children's welfare is supported as most documentation is clear and well organised. This includes individual contracts with parents and detailed records which are updated regularly. The childminder is mindful of confidentiality when dealing with personal information relating to children and their families, keeping documents secure. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the provider was asked to obtain written consents from parents, review the completion of the daily record of attendance and develop her knowledge of child protection procedures. The daily record of attendance is clear and kept up to date at all times, which promotes children's safety. Written consents are obtained from all parents for transporting children in a vehicle, administering medication or seeking emergency treatment for a child, this ensures parents are fully informed and make decisions about the care their child receives. The childminder has attended training and sought relevant literature about child protection procedures, which means she is better able to fulfil her role of safeguarding children.

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):

- continue to develop the systems for managing any complaints.

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