

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY241027
Inspection date	12 September 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 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 was registered in 2004. She cares for children at her parents home in Upton, Poole, where she works with her mother who also works as a registered childminder. She has a son aged five years. The house offers a sitting room, and kitchen-dining room leading to the back garden. The first floor is only accessed to use the bathroom.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children at any one time when working alone and five when working with another childminder. She is currently minding two children under the age of five.

The childminder holds a BTEC National Diploma in Early Years and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is compromised in the event of injury or illness when the childminder is working alone, as she has not completed a first aid course since registration. The relevant permissions are obtained and records completed for medication and accidents. However, parents do not sign to acknowledge the entry of medication administered to their children to fully support children's on going health.

Children's health is promoted appropriately in other areas. They are cared for in a clean and tidy family home where they learn good procedures for their own personal hygiene. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food. Children are protected from the spread of infection through routine procedures which include a hygienic nappy changing system and individual towels provided for hand drying. Parents are informed that children should not attend if they have an infectious illness.

Children enjoy a generally healthy lifestyle. They have regular opportunities for outside activities when they have fresh air and exercise, which includes walking to and from school. Garden play includes play equipment such as a toddler slide, rockers, wheeled vehicles and a tent. Visits to play parks allow children to use a wider range of large equipment such as swings and climbing frames to promote their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in safe and secure premises where hazards and risks are identified and minimised. The good security system protects children from uninvited visitors and ensures that they do not leave the building unsupervised. The childminder ensures measures are in place to help prevent accidents such as socket covers and the safe storage of hazardous substances and sharp objects. The home is organised appropriately so that children can move around freely and in safety. They use equipment and toys that are kept in good condition. The childminder and her co-childminder communicate effectively to provide good supervision of the children's activities.

Children are kept safe on outings through the childminder's routine procedures which include making sure she takes basic first aid resources, a phone and contact numbers with her. Children start to learn about their own safety as they are included in looking and listening for traffic when crossing roads. Young children like to press the button to activate the lights. Although the childminder has thought through an emergency escape plan and sometimes discusses it with children, she has not involved the children in practising the routine so that they know what is expected. Therefore, their safety is not fully promoted in a real situation. The childminder has an adequate understanding of recognising signs of abuse and the procedures to follow with concerns, which contributes towards protecting children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and secure. They are cared for in a welcoming, calm and caring environment where they make good relationships with the adults who care for them as well as

each other. For example, a baby settles comfortably on the childminder's lap, appearing content and enjoying a bottle of milk, then falls asleep, fully satisfied. Young children seem pleased to see older children as they arrive after school or pre-school. Children are offered a satisfactory range of activities and experiences, both inside and out, over a period of time. These include push-button toys, puzzles, shape sorters, books, art and craft and role play. There is a suitable range of play provision which is well organised and arranged so that children can access resources according to their age and stage of ability. For example, baby toys are made easily accessible on the floor, other equipment is stored in boxes and in cupboards. Children receive appropriate interaction from the childminder as she supports their activities, helping them learn social skills and vocabulary as they play.

Children's days include activities outside the home where they meet other people, use other equipment and explore their local environment. Visits to places like country parks encourage children to observe animals and nature. They sometimes experience a ride on a bus into the town where they help choose items from a shop or play in a park. This contributes to children developing a positive attitude to the world around them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder knows children well through on-going communication with parents and through the interaction as she supports their activities. They are made to feel welcome and develop a sense of belonging in a family environment. For example, children hang up their coats and belongings on the low-level hooks when they arrive. Children behave well. They get to know what is expected through familiar routine such as washing their hands before eating. Young children learn to share and take turns during their play. They receive praise and encouragement for kindness and achievements, which helps build their self-esteem.

The childminder promotes appropriate relationships with parents. She supplies information about the policies through conversation, including both childminders, at the beginning of the arrangement. This is supported by documentation such as contracts and child information forms. However, the childminder is unaware of her responsibilities in managing complaints from parents. There are daily opportunities to exchange information to help meet children's individual needs and ensure that any additional requirements are addressed.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder has not completed a first aid course which should have been completed within six months of commencing childminding. Therefore, children's health is compromised on occasions when she is working alone. The childminder is unaware of the regulations and her responsibilities with regards to responding to complaints from parents. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

The satisfactory organisation of the premises, resources and structure of the day means that children are active in a safe environment, eat and rest as individual needs require and enjoy activities outside the home. Children benefit from being cared for by two childminders working together. The childminders communicate effectively to provide good supervision of children's activities. All the required documentation and records to support children's wellbeing, are in place and generally completed clearly.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended: that an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children was completed; that knowledge and understanding of child protection issues was developed; that parents sign to acknowledge details of all medicines administered to children; and that written permission from parents to transport children in the car and for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment is requested.

The childminder has not attended a first aid course, therefore, children's health is not promoted adequately when the childminder is working alone.

The childminder has referred to course notes and researched information on line to improve her knowledge of safeguarding children, which is satisfactory.

Written parental permission is requested to transport children in a vehicle and seek emergency medical treatment, promoting children's health and safety in these areas.

Children's on-going health is still not fully promoted with regards to administering medication, as parents are not asked to sign to acknowledge the record.

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 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:

- complete a first aid course appropriate for caring for infants and young children, and maintain a current first aid certificate
- develop knowledge of the regulations with regards to managing complaints from parents.

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