

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	144245
<b>Inspection date</b>	05 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Brenda Joan Flewitt
<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 was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband, one adult child and two children aged 15 and 11 years. They live in the Colehill area of Wimborne, Dorset. The children have use of the whole of the ground floor which includes a connecting lounge and dining room, kitchen and toilet facilities. A bedroom is made available for sleeping children, on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding seven children under the age of five years and one school-aged child. She also cares for children over the age of eight years. The childminder holds an NNEB qualification.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted appropriately. Children are protected from the spread of infection through the childminder's routine procedures which include a hygienic nappy changing system. Parents are made aware that they should not bring children if they have an infectious illness.

Children are cared for in a clean and tidy family home where they learn good procedures for their personal hygiene. However, there are occasions when these are overlooked. For example, washing hands before eating. Children's accidents and medication are generally well managed. The childminder has an up-to-date first aid certificate and keeps the required records which are completed clearly. She obtains written permission to administer medicines in the form of a letter from the parents, however, these are not always stored with the medication record, to fully support children's ongoing health.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle. They are involved in daily outdoor activities where they get fresh air and exercise. These include garden play where children use various equipment to transfer sand and water and manoeuvre wheeled vehicles. Visits to local play parks enables them to use large equipment such as swings, slides and climbing frames which promotes their physical development. Children learn to make healthy choices in what they eat through the childminder's good example and discussion. They are offered nutritious snacks including fresh fruit and bread sticks and they can drink whenever they are thirsty because their individual cups are made readily available.

### **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 risks and hazards are identified and minimised. The good security system means that children are protected from uninvited visitors and that they cannot leave the building unsupervised. The childminder puts measures in place to help prevent accidents such as a safety gate across stairs, socket covers and the safe storage of hazardous substances. There is a range of equipment available to help keep children safe while eating, sleeping and travelling. These include high chairs and booster seats with harnesses and a high-sided travel cot. A low-level table in the kitchen enables them to access activities safely. Children move around freely and in safety choosing their activities, because the childminder organises her home effectively. They use play provision that is kept in good condition.

Children learn what is expected if they must leave the building in an emergency because they are included in practising the escape plan on a regular basis. Smoke alarms are checked frequently and there are named people who will help in an emergency. This all contributes towards children's safety in a real situation. Children are kept safe on outings through the childminder's routine procedures which include choosing suitable venues, checking public places for hazards and making sure that first aid equipment and contact numbers are readily available. Children learn about their own safety as they are encouraged to wear sun hats and cream, and help look for traffic when crossing roads.

The childminder has a sound understanding of how to recognise signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow in the event of concerns, which helps protect the children from harm.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and secure. They enjoy the time they spend with their childminder, making good relationships with her and each other. From a young age, children develop confidence in making their needs known as they can be sure of a friendly and caring response. They are cared for in a welcoming, busy and family atmosphere. Children are involved in a broad

range of activities and experiences which help them learn. There is a good balance of adult-led and self-chosen tasks offered, both inside and outside the home. These include books, role play, art and craft, dough, cooking, construction, puzzles and games. Young children use their senses to explore a variety of materials. Children are encouraged to develop independence and are given tasks of responsibility. For example, a three-year-old enjoys helping to make a new batch of dough, pouring in flour and water and mixing with a wooden spoon, he chooses 'green' colouring. Later, all children like to manipulate the dough with their hands and various tools. Toddlers fit shapes into corresponding holes as they attempt puzzles while they wait for the dough to cook. All children enjoy looking at books and like to cuddle up with their childminder for a story.

Children use a good range of play provision which is arranged to allow them to choose for themselves from a selection suitable for their age and stage of development. They receive positive interaction from the childminder as she supports their activities talking about colours, numbers and sizes which helps them understand the world.

Children's days include a variety of visits outside the home where they meet other people, use a wider range of equipment and explore their local environment. Weekly visits to toddler groups enable young children to mix with children of a similar age and join in group activities such as music time. Visits to the library encourage children to choose books to take away, and trips to the woods promote children's interest in nature, collecting items which are then used for art work. All this helps children to develop a positive attitude to the world around them.

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

The provision is good.

Children are respected as individuals. The childminder gets to know each child well through effective communication with parents and as she supports their activities. They develop a good sense of belonging as they get to know other minded children and when they see their art work displayed in the childminder's home. They start to learn about people's differences as they play with resources that show positive images of diversity.

Children behave well. From a young age, they learn to take turns and share. They receive much praise and encouragement from the childminder for effort and achievements, which helps build their self-esteem.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive relationships with parents. She has recently developed written policies and procedures to share with parents, and completes written agreements and information forms to promote the children's welfare. There are daily opportunities to exchange information verbally to help meet children's individual needs and ensure that any additional requirements are addressed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder keeps up-to-date and shares good practice through her contact with other childminders. The appropriate 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. The childminder carries out procedures outlined in policies for the safety and welfare of the children. However, the hand washing routine is not always consistently reinforced.

All the required documentation and records are in place, generally well organised and completed clearly. However, parental consent for administering medication is not always stored so that it is readily available for future reference. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last inspection recommended: that a current first aid certificate is maintained; that security was improved to ensure that children cannot leave the premises unsupervised; that written consent from parents is obtained to transport their child in a vehicle, and for routine outings; and that the emergency escape plan is practised with the children to ensure it is effective.

The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course which promotes children's health in the event of accidents and illness. A chain is used to secure the front door and the emergency escape plan is practised regularly involving the children. Therefore, children's safety is promoted. The childminder has improved the partnership with parents by ensuring she obtains written consent for outings and transporting children in a vehicle.

### **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):

- make sure children consistently practise good personal hygiene procedures before handling food
- review the organisation of the written consents from parents with regards to medication, to further promote children's ongoing health.

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)