

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	117339
Inspection date	08 January 2008
Inspector	Janet Butlin
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 satisfactory. 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 since 1988. She lives with her partner, adult son and grandson in a three bed roomed terraced house in a residential area, approximately five miles from the centre of Plymouth. There is an open garden at the front of the house and an enclosed rear garden. Childminding takes place in the lounge, conservatory, kitchen and upstairs bathroom. She is registered to provide care for six children under eight years and there are currently four children enrolled in this age range. There are no family pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy healthy snacks of fruit and eat packed lunches that they bring from home. These are refrigerated to ensure the contents remain fresh and wholesome. The childminder encourages parents to pack a healthy lunch. Children remain adequately hydrated as the childminder ensures they have regular drinks.

Children play in a clean home where they are encouraged to wash their hands after using the toilet. However, this procedure is not robustly implemented and this puts children at risk of cross infection. They are well cared for in the event of having an accident whilst at the childminder's as she is qualified in first aid and has appropriate record-keeping systems in place.

Children develop their muscles as they go on daily walks, for example, to and from school. In good weather they visit the park and play in the garden and the childminder ensures they are protected from the harmful effects of the sun.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a welcoming home where they choose from a wealth of toys and games. These are arranged in the conservatory and children can select their playthings easily and safely. All toys are in sound condition. The rear garden is secure and children play safely on the equipment, as, for example, there is a safety surface beneath the securely fixed swing.

Children are kept safe in the home as the childminder has risk assessed all areas to ensure children cannot access harmful products. Children are further protected as the childminder has devised a routine to be followed in the event of having to evacuate the premises in an emergency. Children are generally well supervised whilst they are playing.

Children's safety is further supported as the childminder has a secure understanding of the child protection procedure. She has up to date guidance to refer to and has undertaken recent training to extend her awareness. She understands the importance of keeping accurate and clear records to protect children, but does not always fully implement this in practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children demonstrate a warm and confident disposition whilst at the childminder's. They choose their toys eagerly and explore their potential. They make connections in their play as they work out why, for example, a toy train makes a noise. They start to develop their communication skills as they make attempts to share news with the childminder. Children enjoy listening to stories and sitting alongside the childminder looking at the pictures in books. She is aware of the Birth to three matters framework, but does not yet use it effectively to inform her practice. Children are keen to operate the television remote control to select songs or stories, however they do not sustain their interest in the resulting programme as they have their favourite toys and games and often choose to play with these alongside the television. They have opportunities to dress up and develop imaginative role-play as there are resources to support these activities. Children's enjoyment is extended as they go on walks and outings to local groups and places of interest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about cultural and social diversity in meaningful ways as they access books and toys depicting positive images of the wider world. Children's individual needs are ascertained at time of placement and the childminder ensures that these are met, for example, she ensures that children are not allergic to certain foodstuffs. Children who have specific needs receive

sound care as the childminder is experienced in working with parents to discover all essential information.

Children are generally well behaved and the childminder encourages them to share their toys. She employs some sound strategies, such as distraction and helping them to play alongside one another.

Children are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. There are effective systems to keep parents informed of regulatory procedures, for example, the childminder's certificate is clearly displayed. The childminder is always willing and available to have discussions with parents regarding aspects of their child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a warm, affectionate and caring childminder who takes pride in providing toys and games for the children that she knows they will enjoy. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She ensures that children do not come into contact with unvetted persons and is aware of the importance of vetting new members of the household promptly. She ensures that her essential qualifications, such as first aid, are kept up to date.

All regulatory documentation is in place and is securely stored. A register is kept of the times of attendance of the children, however, it is not always promptly completed. This means it is not always a reliable record of who is on the premises.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and become familiar with local procedures. She has undertaken training in this area and this has improved children's safety. Their safety has also been strengthened as she has met other requirements concerned with ensuring that the conservatory is maintained at a comfortable temperature, that the rear garden is safe to play in and that cleaning materials are inaccessible to children. The first aid box is now appropriately stocked and consent has been obtained for children to travel in a vehicle. Resources have been obtained which help children to learn about social and cultural diversity. The childminder ensures that the times of arrival and departure of the children are recorded in the register, although this is not always completed promptly. The childminder has met all the requirements of the previous inspection and this has improved outcomes for 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 satisfactory. 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 all persons in the household are vetted
- develop knowledge and understanding of current government guidance and use it to inform practice
- ensure the attendance register is promptly completed for all children
- improve hand washing procedures to minimise the risk of cross infection

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