

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	143890
Inspection date	20 December 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered to care for children in 1997. She lives with her husband and their three children aged six, 12, and 16 years. They live in a house in the residential area of Ensbury Park, in Bournemouth, Dorset. Childminding is carried out on both levels of the premises, with sleep provision on the first floor. Toilet facilities are accessible on both levels. Children have access to an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children under eight years at any one time. She currently cares for five children on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is supported satisfactorily as they are encouraged to follow simple hygiene routines. The childminder reminds them to wash their hands before they eat, take part in cooking activities and after using the toilet. They use liquid soap and have their own towels available, which helps to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder ensures she obtains

written permission from parents prior to administering any medications, and ensures details of this are recorded clearly. However, accident records lack sufficient detail to support children's health fully. For example, some entries do not include the child's name or the exact date of the accident. The childminder is first aid trained, which enables her to deal with any minor emergencies appropriately.

Children benefit from being offered healthy snacks and meals throughout the day, which meet their individual dietary needs. They enjoy a tasty snack of fresh and dried fruit and cereals along with a drink so they don't get thirsty.

Children take part in some form of physical activity on a regular basis to promote their general health and well-being. They go on walks in the local area and have opportunities to use the range of equipment in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is adequately supported. Toys are cleaned and checked regularly and stored so as not to be a hazard. All areas indoors are satisfactorily maintained, with basic precautions such as stair gates and cupboard locks used to protect children from hazards. Fire safety equipment is checked regularly to ensure it is fully operational and minded children have practised the emergency evacuation procedure. This helps to ensure their safety is maintained. The childminder uses practical situations to raise children's awareness of safety. For example, she explains that the children need to stand well back when she opens the oven door to take out the mince pies they have made, as the oven will be hot.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory awareness of child protection issues. She has completed training relating to safeguarding children recently, which has provided her with information about the procedures she needs to follow in the event of a concern. This knowledge supports her in fulfilling her role of keeping children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled and have a warm relationship with the childminder. They benefit from the caring interaction they receive from the childminder, who is constantly available to support their needs. The children have formed strong relationships with each other. They play imaginatively together, making good use of the easily accessible resources. The childminder organises her time well to ensure she can devote her attention to meeting the children's needs and encourage their learning. For example, the children enjoy making mince pies, rolling and cutting out the pastry. She chats to them about the shapes they are cutting and how many pies they have made, encouraging language and maths skills. The childminder values and appreciates the children's own creations. She offers lots of praise and encouragement as the children take part, which makes them feel confident and very proud.

The children benefit from regular outings to the local library and toddler groups, which increases their experiences and offers them opportunities to develop social skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel settled and included as the childminder spends time supporting them. Although she appears to have an understanding of the children's individual needs, little information is recorded on children's records to ensure all needs are consistently met. There are some basic resources and activities offered, which encourage children's awareness and understanding of the wider world. The childminder discusses behaviour management strategies with parents to help to offer children consistency. She sets clear boundaries which helps children to understand her expectations. Children are very polite due to the childminder acting as a good role model.

Satisfactory relationships are established with parents which enhance the care offered to children. Parents are provided with some information about the childminder's policies which helps them to have a better understanding of her role and responsibilities. The childminder allows time to share information with parents to support children's ongoing care needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has attended several training courses recently, to increase her knowledge to better support children's care. Documentation is stored to ensure confidentiality is maintained. However, some documentation is not used fully effectively to support children's ongoing health and well-being. Space within the home is organised to ensure children have plenty of free space in which to play or rest quietly if necessary.

Procedures are in place to protect children from persons who have not been vetted. The childminder ensures children are always supervised by herself. She adheres to her registered numbers at all times, and keeps Ofsted informed of any changes. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the standards for care were judged as inadequate. Actions were raised to develop the childminder's understanding of the regulations regarding complaints and to ensure that documentation is clear and up to date. The childminder has sought information and has in place a written procedure regarding complaints, increasing her knowledge and also ensuring parents are fully aware of the procedure to follow in the event of them having a concern. The childminder has updated some documentation, however, some records including the accident record and children's individual records do not always include sufficient information to ensure they fully support children's ongoing health and well-being.

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 accident records include detailed information
- increase the information recorded about children's individual needs.

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