

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	505534
Inspection date	28 November 2007
Inspector	Maria Lumley
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 outstanding. 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 1994. She is registered to care for six children under the age of eight. There are currently 12 children on roll. She lives with her husband and adult daughter. They live in a bungalow within walking distance of the library, soft play area and childminder groups. All areas of the property except for one of the ground floor bedrooms are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The family have a small dog and a cat to which the children have some supervised access.

The childminder runs a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminders' group. She is also a member of "Poole Children Come First", an accredited childminder network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where they learn the importance of high levels of hygiene and personal care from an early age. Exemplary practices are strongly encouraged. The childminder helps children to gain an excellent understanding of hygiene and a real desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care. For example, those that can wash their hands on their own, aided by a step stool to the sink. The children call out, 'Rub, dub, dub' as they use the soap and say, 'Swish, swish, swish' as they rinse their hands. Children actively learn to protect themselves against the harmful effects of germs as they use antibacterial solutions to cleanse and eradicate dirt from their hands and individual hand towels to dry their wet hands. Children regularly use tissues to wipe their noses and give them to the childminder to dispose of. The childminder and children then clean their hands using liquid gel to minimise the spread of infection. The childminder follows stringent nappy changing procedures including the wearing of gloves and thoroughly cleaning the changing mat after each use.

The childminder works to detailed policies and procedures which she has devised in relation to health, hygiene, and illness. Extremely sound procedures are in place for children who are unwell. This includes guidelines for the control of infection and minimum exclusion periods to safeguard the good health of all children who attend the provision. Children receive appropriate first aid because the childminder holds a suitable first aid qualification and actively monitors her provision of medical supplies, ensuring that a first aid kit is close by within the home and when travelling in the car.

Children are positively encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle because the childminder provides healthy snacks and evening meals. She promotes children's knowledge and understanding of nutritional issues through discussion and activities. For example, children make healthy food plates using pictures from magazines and use scented fruits during their play. The childminder always ensures that fresh fruit is available for children. Children are positively encouraged to drink water which is freely and constantly available. They understand the need to replenish their fluid levels in order to stay healthy. For example, after physical play they have some drink to keep them hydrated.

Children enjoy an extensive range of stimulating activities that positively contribute to their good health. All year round, there are daily opportunities to play in the child orientated garden. This is equipped with a vast array of toys, games and play equipment which develop children's physical competencies. Children attempt to master new skills such as pedalling bikes under the close supervision and guidance from the childminder and are delighted when they succeed in pedalling the length of the garden. They also have numerous opportunities to develop their physical skills as they visit local parks, farms and toddler groups. Children benefit from opportunities to develop their small muscle control as they draw with crayons and turn pages in books.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from the child orientated environment. Children's safety takes precedence in this carefully monitored and secure environment. The childminder is highly vigilant, ensuring

all necessary precautionary measures are implemented. For example, the use of stair gates around the home enable her to monitor children's movements. The childminder offers excellent levels of supervision in the home and garden. Children are cared for in an exceptionally child centred and welcoming environment. They are able to contribute to its ambiance as they have their art work and photographs displayed on the walls, alongside colourful posters. Children benefit in developing their learning as they access an extensive range of age appropriate high quality resources maintained in good repair. These remain accessible, promoting plenty of opportunities for independence and choice.

Children's safety is upheld as they learn to keep themselves safe, the childminder plans activities to raise their awareness of safety issues. For example, they visit Streetwise, a local safety centre where they learn how to cross roads safely and be aware of hazards such as traffic and dogs. Frequently practised fire drills and rigorous risk assessments, which are constantly reviewed support children's welfare.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a sound awareness of protecting children from harm. She knows how to identify symptoms of child abuse and where and whom she should report this to. Extensive training which is refreshed every three years supports the childminder in ensuring her practice remains updated.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy and achieve within this well managed and exceptionally child centred provision. Children are cared for by a conscientious and skilled childminder who has a sound and realistic understanding of child development. She provides age appropriate activities in line with children's individual needs. Children are extremely settled and well cared for. The childminder spends much of her time on floor with the children supporting and extending their play. For example, they sit together and look through the transport box. As children select vehicles the childminder asks them questions to make them think. They compare the sizes of the different vehicles and sort them by colour. The children become very excited when they find the fire engine and call out, 'Nee noo' as they race it along the floor. Children are familiar and comfortable with their carer, they snuggle up to her when she reads 'The Hungry Caterpillar' story to them. They giggle and excitedly point to the pictures. When they struggle with counting the food on each page the childminder joins in and prompts them, this enables them to successfully complete their task. The childminder offers very high levels of praise which keeps children engaged and interested in their play. Children have lots of opportunities to instigate their own play. During these times the childminder observes from a distance and this allows the children to use their imagination. For example, as a child plays with kitchen utensils in the garden, they use the spreader on the brick walls of the house, pretending to cement bricks. They become absorbed in their play.

Older children that are cared for after school receive good care. The childminder plans activities that are in line with their development and promote their learning. For example, they recently observed the moon cycle, completing a daily chart logging the shape of the moon. They also made a poster painting stars and the moon onto black paper and displayed this on the wall. The children are involved in everyday tasks that help to develop new skills and knowledge. They help to wash and slice vegetables to put on pizzas which they then eat for dinner.

The childminder has written plans and keeps a journal for each child to evidence their learning and development. These include observations, photographs, examples of their work and 'magic

moments'. The childminder is aware of current changes with early years and is already developing her written plans and observation to incorporate the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is exceptionally good practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are part of an extended family unit which epitomises the quality of care offered. All children are welcomed and included in the provision. The childminder gets to know children and their families well. The completion of 'What's special about me?' documents ensure that the childminder is aware of children's likes, dislikes, nicknames and extended families. This helps to ease the transition from home to minding setting. Children see photographs of themselves displayed around the room and watch as their parents talk to the childminder, consequently, children have a good sense of belonging. Children behave very well, they learn to value each other as they take turns. The childminder offers high levels of praise to the children and this builds their confidence and self esteem. The 'You're a star' chart is used in recognition of children's achievements and kind acts. Children develop good manners from an early age as the childminder acts as a positive role model. Toddlers sit nicely in their high chairs at snack time and say 'Ta' when given their fruit.

Children learn about the wider world through discussion and access to an extensive range of resources that reflect positive images of diversity. These include a variety of books, dolls, figures and posters. They also learn about cultural festivals within the year. For example, children learn about Diwali and use clay to make diva lamps. Children are learning about other countries and set up a role play area with foods from around the world such as tacos.

The childminder has established excellent relationships with parents. They show great appreciation for the care their children receive saying, for example, 'she offers an excellent childminding service' and 'very impressed by the range of activities and opportunities that she gives'. The childminder staggers children's collection times to ensure that she has time to speak to each parent individually. She provides additional services to support families, such as, collecting children from home when the parents are unable to drive. The childminder works in partnership with parents to ensure consistency for children. This has been particularly effective recently when she worked with parents to establish a sleep pattern. The same strategies were used at home and whilst in her care and had a positive outcome.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She uses time, space, including outdoor space, and resources effectively to provide a stimulating and caring environment for children. Children benefit from consistent routines and sensitive support so that they feel secure and have a sense of belonging. They have time to rest and time to be active. The childminder is very experienced and skilled in childcare. Children benefit from her commitment and dedication to developing her knowledge of early years practices on a continual basis.

The childminder maintains rigorous records. She keeps her register at hand so that children's comings and goings are documented at the earliest opportunity. The childminder has a professional framework of policies and procedures which contribute to children's health and safety. She ensures that children are never left with anyone who has not been vetted.

Confidentiality is respected. Information is shared with parents so they know about the provision and the care their children receive.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the provider agreed to give further consideration to procedures to meet the needs of children with special needs, including the need for privacy. The childminder ensures that she liaises closely with all parents. She seeks detailed information as to what each child requires to ensure she is able to meet their individual needs. The childminder ensures that both privacy and safety are considered when caring 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

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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