

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142018
Inspection date	17 April 2008
Inspector	Claire Sheldrake

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 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 1999. She lives with her husband and two grown up children. They live in a detached house in Burnham-on-Sea. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, of these only three may be under five years, and of these only one may be under one year. Currently, she looks after 11 children, and these attend on a part-time basis. She does not offer overnight care. The family has two cats and one rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are involved in developing their own routine hygiene practices. They are learning about toileting, and the importance of hand washing after using the bathroom and before eating. The childminder makes certain that children are well supervised when using the bathroom.

She ensures the risk of cross infection is minimised, with the use of paper towels and disposable gloves when changing children's nappies.

Documentation to support children's health is completed as individual sheets, and these are kept in children's files. These include short and long term medication consents, accident records and written consent from parents, to seek emergency treatment or advice. The childminder has written policies which are shared with parents about the care she will provide for children when they are sick. This ensures that children's needs are effectively supported in partnership with parents.

At the time of the inspection the childminder has allowed her first aid certificate to lapse, however she has been booked onto a new course in the near future. She has a complete first aid kit and appears confident about dealing with children's minor injuries and ailments.

The children enjoy a healthy diet, they are offered drinks throughout the day to ensure they remain hydrated, especially on hot days. Some of the children talk about their favourite foods, saying they like 'grapes and strawberries', others are happier to say the foods they do not like. Children's dietary requirements are recorded and details discussed with parents, this ensures their needs are met effectively.

Children have regular opportunities to be physical. They are able to play in the garden on small apparatus and ride on toys and walk to the local park to run freely, climb and swing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a homely environment, mainly using a playroom decorated with posters of teddies, animals and Disney characters. Mobiles hang from the ceiling and a large chair is used for a cuddle, and to share a story book. The children are settled and are busy playing.

The garden is safely enclosed, and has a variety of small apparatus for children to play on. To maintain children's safety the childminder ensures that children are well supervised.

Children have access to safe toys and equipment, which are suitable for their ages and stages of development. The childminder checks the toys to make sure that there are none with small pieces, which could cause a child to choke.

The children are learning about keeping themselves safe. The childminder explains to the children about the dangers of running around with a pencil in their hand and the children respond saying "it might go in your eye".

To ensure that children are cared for according to their parents' wishes the childminder has developed a comprehensive set of written consent forms for each child.

The childminder has ensured that her premises are safe for children. The front door is kept locked and she restricts access to the kitchen and the stairs using a stair gate. She has all the required equipment to prevent the children from being at risk from fire.

Children's well-being is monitored and protected. The childminder is aware of the safeguarding children guidelines, and the reporting procedures that she has to follow. She has supporting

documents such as 'What to do if you are worried about a child' to use in the event of a child protection incident.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are settled and happy. They keenly help the childminder make some stamps for their game with the post office. They are developing many skills, as they pretend to weigh the letters, match the number of stamps with the letters, and count out the money needed to buy them.

The children listen to music and story tapes as they play, they choose their favourites and sing along to familiar tunes. They like to press the buttons on the tape recorder and they confidently sing into the microphone along with the nursery rhyme.

The childminder sits on the floor with the children and helps them to complete a puzzle. She is encouraging in their efforts and helps them to manage fitting the pieces together, showing them how to match the piece to the picture on the box.

The children enjoy mark making and free drawing. They ask for a colouring book, and holding the pencil carefully follow the dot to dot patterns, encouraging the early formation of letters and writing.

The childminder is effective in keeping children's attention and making a game entertaining. The children patiently take their turn in the dominoes matching game and are quietly competitive. At the end of the game they all appear pleased that it was a draw for the children as the winners, and that the childminder had come last.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern, and the childminder encourages the children to play together and join in. She recognises their individual needs and responds appropriately, for example, when reassuring one of the children who arrives feeling shy.

The childminder has experience of supporting children with specific learning difficulties, and their families. She consults closely with parents, in regard to the child's overall care and development to ensure their individual needs are met.

Children behave well for the childminder, and respond to her being close to them and being involved. They are beginning to learn how to share their toys, and the childminder is helping them to play cooperatively, taking turns. This is evident in the matching dominoes game. The children enjoy being part of tidy up routines and are keen to put the puzzles away, and the toys back into the box, before choosing another activity. The children are encouraged to be well mannered and freely say 'please' and 'thank you'.

The childminder has developed a file of information for each of the children she cares for, and this is filled with relevant consent forms and children's personal records. She has a prospectus to share with new parents and she regularly updates them with their child's progress and learning.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are given regular opportunities to spend time playing both in and out of doors. They enjoy games and activities in the playroom, fun in the garden and trips to the local park, checking to see the neighbours' animals as they walk.

The childminder has been caring for minded children for eight years. She has been trained in administering first aid to children, however her certificate has just expired. She has enrolled onto a new course to ensure children's health and safety is effectively supported.

The childminder has re-organised her written paperwork since her previous inspection, and she now has all the relevant documentation to support children's health and well-being and these are kept in partnership with parents. She has been proactive in getting support from her Early Years Advisor and has attended recent childcare briefings to keep herself up to date with the introduction of the new Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

The childminder records children's attendance appropriately and this includes their time of arrival and departure.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder did not have the required documentation to support children's health and safety. Since the inspection she has sought help from her Early Years Advisor and has developed a comprehensive set of written consents, records and policies in partnership with parents. This does now effectively support children's well-being.

To improve her knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and regulations, the childminder has been proactive in attending provider evenings with the local Childcare Advisors.

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:

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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 the first aid course is completed as planned.
- continue to develop the childminding service provided, and keep up to date with information and legislation

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