

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY363894
Inspection date	11 April 2008
Inspector	Dinah Round
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 registered to care for children in 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged one and nine years. They live in a house on a residential estate close-by the town of Dorchester, in Dorset. Childminding is mainly carried out on the ground floor with toilet facilities and sleeping provision on the first floor. Children do not have access to the garden, but are taken on regular outings to the park for physical play activities.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of two children under eight years, and currently has two children on roll. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and a local childminding group. She has an NVQ level 3 in Early Years and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained family home. Their health is promoted well through the childminder's effective practices and daily routines. For example, children wash their hands before eating and individual flannels and towels supplied by parents help to

minimise the risk of cross infection. Effective nappy changing procedures are followed where use of disposable wipes and gloves help to protect children. Clear medication and accident records are maintained which are shared with parents to ensure they are kept well informed. Children are assured of prompt treatment in the event of an emergency, as the childminder has completed first aid training and ensures first aid resources are available both at the home and on outings.

All children's food is provided by the parents and the childminder keeps them informed of what food is eaten. Information about children's dietary needs is obtained from parents and recorded to ensure any particular requirements are followed. The childminder organises her own children's lunches in advance to ensure that mealtimes run smoothly. Parents requests are followed when heating up children's food, and the childminder provides additional spoons to encourage children to feed themselves. Children use individual drinking cups supplied by parents, and the childminder makes sure that children have regular drinks so they do not get thirsty.

Children have access to regular fresh air as the childminder walks to and from school on a daily basis. Although children do not currently have use of an outdoor play space they benefit from frequent trips to the local park. The childminder also organises activities within the home to help promote children's physical development, for example, younger children enjoy kicking and rolling the soft ball.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure home where good levels of safety measures are in place. For example, safety gates to prevent access to the stairs and locks on low cupboards in the kitchen. The external doors are kept secure and keys easily accessible. The play space is effectively organised so children are able to move around freely and safely as they choose their toys. Outdoor shoes are not worn indoors so potential risks are minimised for younger children playing on the floor. Children are protected when sleeping upstairs as they are within hearing distance and the childminder carries out regular checks. Children have access to a good selection of age appropriate toys and equipment which are clean and well maintained.

Fire safety equipment is in place and an emergency procedure has been developed. However, the childminder has not practised an emergency evacuation with the children. The effective procedures followed by the childminder when on outings ensures that children are kept safe. This includes provision of a double buggy and checking play areas are safe and suitable for the ages of the children.

The childminder has recently attended safeguarding training and has a secure knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. This supports her in her role of safeguarding children. Her child protection policy is shared with parents which informs them of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children receive good interaction from the childminder which helps them to feel settled and secure. The childminder is sensitive of children's needs and follows younger children's individual routines to make them feel comfortable and secure. Children are becoming independent as they explore activities for themselves and are able to freely access age appropriate play equipment.

Children are provided with a variety of interesting activities and play experiences which take account of their ages and individual needs. This includes various creative activities, such as playdough, painting, singing and dancing to music. Although, the opportunities to maximise the provision of sensory activities are not always fully explored. Children's learning is promoted well due to the childminder supporting and encouraging the children through their play. For example, children enjoy looking at the 'Boo Barney' picture book and smile happily as the childminder plays peek-a-boo with them. Children's progress is successfully monitored by the childminder, she identifies different play opportunities and experiences to help children move on to the next stage of their development.

Children enjoy frequent experiences outside the home such as, visits to the local library and trips to the shops. The childminder meets with other childminders and children which means that children socialise regularly and helps develop their confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder is aware of their particular needs through close liaison with parents and adapts her provision to ensure that children are well supported. Children feel included as the childminder balances her attention well to keep them occupied. For example, children have their lunch together and the childminder supervises younger children closely as they learn to feed themselves. Children are introduced to the wider world through access to resources reflecting positive images of diversity.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear understanding of their age and stage of development when dealing with behaviour. Effective use of distraction with toys helps to prevent squabbles, and children are taught to share and take turns. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement, such as when using the spoon to feed themselves at lunch time. The childminder acts as a good role model for children through her calm and caring attitude.

There are very good systems in place to ensure information about children is successfully shared. A detailed questionnaire is completed by parents at the beginning of an arrangement to provide the childminder with clear information about each child's individual needs and routines. Informal daily discussions at the beginning and end of the day ensures that children's individual needs are continually discussed with parents. A daily diary is also used by the childminder and parents to exchange details about children's sleep times, nappy changes, food eaten and daily activities. This contributes towards the children's care and well being.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are settled in the warm and relaxed environment. The premises are effectively organised so that children are able to freely and safely select their own resources. Health and safety measures are effectively in place to support children, but an emergency evacuation has not been practised with the children. An interesting range of play opportunities including experiences outside the home are offered to children to promote their learning and development. However, organisation of the daily routine does not always maximise opportunities for children to access creative experiences. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude to the continual development of her role. Clear written policies and procedures support the childminder's working practices, these are shared with parents to keep them clearly informed about the childminding provision. Documentation is well organised, up to date and stored securely to ensure confidentiality. Individual contracts and written consents are in place for all children.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 to 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):

- practise an emergency evacuation procedure with children
- review organisation of the daily routines to maximise opportunities for children to take part in creative play experiences

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