



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 109790
Inspection date 09 January 2006
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 in 1996. She lives with her husband and 4 children aged between 11 and 21 years. They live in a house on a residential estate in Merley, Poole. Childminding is confined to the ground floor, with toilet and sleeping facilities provided in this area.

Children have access to a large rear garden for outdoor play. The family have a rabbit and a guinea pig kept in outside hutches.

The childminder is registered to look after a maximum of 6 children under 8 years at

any one time. She currently cares for 9 children under 8 years and 4 children over 8, all on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and well maintained family home. They are protected from cross-infection due to the childminder's effective routines and practices. This includes the provision of individual flannels and bedding. Children learn good procedures for their own personal health and hygiene. For example, they independently wash their hands after using the toilet. Clear information is shared with parents about the exclusion of children with infectious illnesses, which helps to reduce the spread of infection. The regular use of sun cream in the summer months ensures that the children's health is protected.

Children's health is well promoted by the close liaison between the childminder and parents, with younger children's food mostly provided by the parents. Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents to make sure their individual requirements are followed. The older children are offered snacks, however these do not always fully encourage healthy eating. For example, they are generally given biscuits and fruit is optional. Drinks are provided during the day to ensure children do not get thirsty.

Children are provided with regular opportunities for fresh air and exercise. This includes trips to the shops, the beach, and visits to Wimborne to feed the ducks. Children have access to a range of outdoor play equipment, they also enjoy visits to local play parks with large play equipment. This provides good opportunities to promote children's physical development and co-ordination.

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. They are able to move around safely within the play areas. Good levels of safety measures within the home and the regular checks of fire safety equipment, helps to ensure children remain safe. This includes a stair gate across the lounge to prevent free access to the kitchen, and all hazardous substances in high cupboards out of the children's reach. However, two fence panels are missing in the rear garden which means the outdoor play area is not safely enclosed for the children. Children benefit from the childminder's effective procedures when taking them on outings, such as, use of reins, and the use of name bands with the childminder's contact number.

Children have access to an extensive range of clean, good quality toys and resources. These are well organised in separate boxes for the different age groups. The childminder is aware of each child's stage of development and helps children

select appropriate resources from the play room. Suitable equipment is provided for younger children, for example highchairs with harnesses. However, a sofa in one room is torn and exposes foam, which is a potential risk to young children.

The childminder has a good knowledge of child protection issues and procedures which supports her in her role of keeping children safe. Her clear child protection policy ensures parents are familiar with her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content and have good relationships with the childminder. They are confident in the familiar routines, and their independence is actively encouraged throughout the day. For example, children use the step to wash their hands independently after using the toilet. Children benefit from lots of good quality interaction and physical contact from the childminder, which helps them feel settled and secure.

Children are kept interested and occupied by the wide range of stimulating activities and experiences offered. This includes a good balance of play opportunities to promote children's learning, such as art and craft activities, construction resources and listening to stories. Daily creative activities are planned to enable children to use their senses. This includes experimenting with different materials, such as paint, chalks, dough and crayoning. Children enjoy using their imagination with the wooden small world village, creating different areas for the animals and people to live.

The childminder spends time talking and listening to the children to extend their learning. She is sensitive and caring towards the children's needs. For example, she recognises when children need quiet activities and encourages them to cuddle up for a story. Children independently find books for the childminder to read or to look at by themselves. Children benefit from regular outings and meetings with other childminders and children. This encourages socialising 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 very aware of their particular requirements and through close liaison with parents, she ensures the children's needs are met. Children are included in the full range of activities, as the childminder makes sure they are adapted to suit a child's age and stage of development. The childminder promotes a positive attitude to children with additional needs, and provides children with a wide range of resources reflecting positive images of diversity. This helps to raise the children's awareness of the wider world and the needs of others.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear understanding of their individual ages

and stages of development, when dealing with behaviour issues. They learn to have respect for others through the childminder's good role model, and to share and take turns. The behaviour policy and close liaison between the childminder and parents, ensures consistency for children in dealing with any behaviour issues.

Children's particular needs are fully discussed with parents at the beginning of an arrangement, to enable the childminder to follow their individual routines. Clear information is shared with parents to keep them effectively informed about the childminding practices. This includes policies and procedures, details of the daily routine and regular play activities that are offered to children. The daily two-way exchange ensures information about the children is regularly shared. A 'daily diary' is used for the youngest children to record their routines, sleep times and nappy changes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and well-organised environment. The childminder takes account of their individual needs, and provides good opportunities for both active and quiet play, with rest times as required. The areas are flexibly organised to allow separate play space for the different age groups. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Policies and procedures are used effectively to support the childminder's good practice. Records and documentation are well-organised and kept secure in folders. Individual contracts are formulated with parents and clear parental consents are in place to transport children in a vehicle and seek emergency medication.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to provide a range of toys and activities that promote gender and disability. The childminder has purchased several new resources including books and puzzles. These are readily accessible to children and effectively raise their awareness of diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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 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):

- make sure the outdoor play space is fully enclosed and made safe, and that the torn furniture is inaccessible to children
- develop further the provision of snacks, so that older children are offered greater choices to promote healthy eating.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk