



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	144153
Inspection date	21 December 2005
Inspector	Carole Argles
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 has been registered since 1988 and may care for 5 children aged under 8 years. She sometimes works with an assistant, who may at times agreed in writing by the parents, care for the children. At present, the childminder is caring for 5 children aged under 5 and, 5 school age children on a part-time basis.

The childminder lives with her partner in a house in Wimborne Minster, within walking distance of shops, school and parks. Children use the ground floor of the premises, the first floor bathroom and a bedroom for sleeping. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The premises, toys and equipment are clean and hygienic for the children to use. The childminder takes effective action to minimise the risk of infection spreading between children by providing individual towels and flannels, excluding children who are ill, and having appropriate nappy changing procedures. She has suitable procedures for the safe administration of medication to children and holds a current first aid certificate. Children learn about the importance of good hygiene through the daily routines; for example, when washing their hands before eating.

The childminder and parents work together to ensure that children receive a healthy and nutritious diet, which includes fresh fruit. There are many activities that encourage children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The childminder talks with them frequently about the importance of a healthy diet and dental care. For example, the children were talking about the importance of brushing their teeth frequently and about how sweets can damage them. They take part in interesting cooking and food preparation activities that encourage them to try and to enjoy a wide range of wholesome foods.

The children have many opportunities for exercise. The childminder does not use a car so children frequently walk to local amenities. They use wheeled toys and push buggies in the garden, and use larger play equipment in local parks. They often dance and move to music in the childminder's home. As a result, the children are developing good control and co-ordination.

Children have a warm and trusting relationship with the childminder and young children readily go to her for comfort and reassurance. She respects their individual routines so there is continuity with their care at home. This supports their emotional wellbeing and helps children feel settled and secure in her care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are well maintained, safe and secure for the children. The childminder minimises the risk of accidental injury to children by using appropriate safety equipment. For example, she uses a gate to restrict young children's access to the stairs and has cupboard locks, socket covers, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. She checks regularly that toys and equipment are safe and suitable for children to use. The childminder supervises the children very closely at all times and checks sleeping babies frequently. She has effective procedures to ensure that only authorised adults collect the children.

The children begin to learn how to keep themselves safe through many discussions

with the childminder who carefully explains the possible consequences of their actions to them. They regularly practise a fire evacuation procedure so they understand how to act in the event of an emergency. The childminder reminds children how to use equipment, like scissors, safely and, talks with them about plant and road safety.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues and the action to take if she is concerned about the welfare of a child in her care. This contributes well towards keeping children safe from harm or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled, and have a relaxed and friendly relationship with the childminder. There is a very good level of conversation between them. This supports children's speech and language development well and they speak clearly and confidently. The childminder is interested in the children and talks to them about themselves and their families, valuing what they say. The children receive frequent praise and encouragement and consequently, develop a good self-esteem. The children enjoy pretend play, playing co-operatively together and making up stories.

The children take part in a varied range of activities including art, cooking and music activities and outings; for example, to toddler group. There is a suitable range of age-appropriate toys and equipment to support the children's development and learning. Some items are readily available in boxes in the play area so the children can take them independently. The childminder changes these daily, although there is a restricted range available at any one time and this limits children's choice. However, the children are well occupied; they enjoy their play and show good concentration. The childminder takes many opportunities to support children's learning; she counts with them as they use bricks and talks with them about letters and the sounds they make. All children are included in the activities because the childminder adapts them to meet individual needs; for example, by providing puzzles of varying difficulty or craft activities that provide challenge for the oldest children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children behave very well, sharing fairly and playing co-operatively together. Sometimes they show spontaneous acts of kindness to others; for example, by fetching toys for them. The children learn to manage their own behaviour well because the childminder carefully explains her expectations to them and gives them frequent praise so they understand when they have done well.

The children benefit from the close working relationship between the childminder and their parents who exchange information daily. This ensures that she meets their wishes for their child and there is continuity in their care so children are comfortable and relaxed. There is an effective settling in procedure for new children; they visit the

childminder with their parents so they become familiar with their surroundings and feel confident and secure. Parents understand what is available for their child because the childminder has a comprehensive information pack for them to read.

The childminder respects children's personal differences and meets their individual needs and routines well so they are confident and secure. She monitors their development informally and brings any concerns to their parent's attentions so that they can seek further advice or support. Children use a satisfactory range of resources that show positive images of diversity. They begin to find out about and develop an accepting attitude towards the culture and traditions of others; for example, when talking about festivals such as Chinese New Year.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's home is comfortable and welcoming for the children and their parents. She organises space effectively to support the children's needs. For example, she clears space so children can move and play safely in the house and garden, and provides stacking child-size tables for activities like drawing or puzzles. She uses a first floor bedroom so children can sleep undisturbed. However, there is a narrow selection of toys stored so children can take them independently and initiate their own play.

The children benefit from the childminder's commitment towards her personal development and she regularly attends relevant courses. She has comprehensive policies and procedures and these support the children's care and welfare effectively. Records are clear, up to date and stored securely. She keeps to the required adult: child ratios and uses an assistant with the agreement of the parents. This ensures the children are well supported.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, the childminder agreed to extend the range of resources showing positive images of disability and to plan and practise an emergency evacuation procedure.

The childminder has now obtained some storybooks from support organisations and these help children accept and understand the needs of other people who, for example, use wheelchairs or have epilepsy. The childminder has developed a suitable evacuation plan, which she practises regularly with all children. This contributes well towards ensuring their safety in an emergency.

Complaints since the last inspection

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

The childminder 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):

- review the organisation of toys and activities to provide more opportunities for children to choose items independently and initiate their own play.

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