



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	110613
Inspection date	16 May 2005
Inspector	Clare Moore

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 1995. She lives with her husband and three children who are of school and student age. They live in a house in the village of Dibden Purlieu from where they walk to the local schools, shops and park. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family has a pet dog. The childminder attends a local parent and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a level 3 qualification in Childminding Practice.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are encouraged to develop a healthy lifestyle. They are offered milk or water to drink, and a healthy snack of fruit or a biscuit. Children are well nourished because the childminder has obtained information about their dietary needs of and shared this with parents which has helped to develop lunch time provision. Children's specific needs are met as the childminder finds out about allergies and sensitivities and applies protective cream to keep them safe in the sun. Children enjoy fresh air, exercise and physical play in the garden and the park using the wide range of equipment available to keep fit and active.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home and older children know about the need for good personal hygiene. The childminder is a good role model when she washes her hands and she ensures children have clean hands after using the toilet and before meals. Children are kept free from infection because the childminder is aware of the need to prevent the spread of sickness and has an effective policy which is shared with parents. Efficient systems for recording accidents and medication and a readily accessible first aid kit in the home which is supplemented by a smaller kit for outings mean that children can be treated in the event of an injury or an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The home is secure and risks to children are minimised with the good use of stair gates, safe storage of medicines, cleaning materials, and carefully considered fire safety procedures. Children are kept safe on school runs by using wrist straps and the double buggy. Older children are encouraged to take responsibility when crossing roads by looking and listening, using pedestrian crossings and operating the lights. Children are carefully supervised during the time they spend with her. Most activities have been risk assessed to make sure they are safe.

The childminder has developed clear procedures to cover emergency evacuation of the house and actions to prioritise the safety of the children. She has an appropriate understanding of Child Protection Procedures which helps to ensure that children's needs are met.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their freely chosen activities and can access many of the resources available to them. They use their imagination when they play with diggers, spades and gravel in the garden, dolls, buggy, wheelchair and the children's kitchen. They enjoy rhymes and songs. e.g. "row, row your boat". They also have opportunities to model with play dough and build with junk modelling materials such as re-cycled

yoghurt pots and cardboard tubes. They enjoy outdoor play on the rocker and sit'n'ride vehicles, and at the park on bouncers and the climbing frame. Other activities offered include cooking, dressing up, small world and activity centres, painting and collage. Children practise number skills when they go down stairs, when the childminder draws and counts round their fingers, and with songs and rhymes e.g. "five 5 little ducks went swimming". They develop language through informal chatting, books and stories. The childminder makes plans for activities during the holidays when there are more children of a wider age range. All children take part in activities such as making vegetable soup, cooking and icing biscuits, using stencils. Older ones to help the younger ones which helps to promote good relationships. The extensive range of toys and resources ensures there is always something interesting for all of the children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

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Children are co-operative, and often share resources. The childminder knows individual children and their interests well though talking to parents and her observations which helps her to ensure their needs are met. She discusses issues with children to help them to develop a positive attitude to difference, for example people who have disabilities and people who look different. She has books to help her with this and particularly likes to share a book called "I'm Special" to help children develop a wider view.

Children are valued as individuals and are often independent in making choices, for example choosing where to play and selecting their own resources from those set out or in accessible storage. Children are happy and settled in the home environment. They play together and alongside each other well, enjoy each others company and are at ease with the childminder.

The childminder shares information with parents informally at collection times and also with younger children by using a daily diary. This sets out the activities, sleeps, outings and parents also use it make notes to the childminder. This helps to ensure children's needs are met through a consistent approach.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Records and policies are clear, well ordered, up to date and discussed with parents which helps to maintain continuity for children. Permissions have been obtained from parents to cover medical treatment or advice which ensures appropriate action can be taken to treat children in the event of an emergency.

The childminder is motivated to develop her skills beyond the basic requirement and has attended further training about attention deficit disorders, nutrition and food

hygiene which helps her to further support children's welfare.

Space and resources are very well organised with a dedicated linked play room for children's use, child accessible storage and a well laid out and equipped garden so that children can be independent and make choices about what they want to do .

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder checks and records the smoke detectors on a monthly basis to ensure they are in good working order. This ensures an early warning in the event of a fire, giving time to evacuate the premises and keep children safe.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- develop a procedure identifying actions to be taken to minimize identified risks when children use the trampoline

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