



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	144128
Inspection date	27 July 2005
Inspector	Anne Mitchell

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 1988. She lives with her two adult children in Colehill, near Wimborne. The whole 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. There are three children under five and seven children over five in total on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group. The family has a dog, two guinea pigs and fish. 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.

Children's health is promoted through clear procedures to teach them good practice. They wash their hands after using the toilet, and learn about the importance of good hygiene through discussion and encouragement. They wash their hands unprompted after a walk, where they played in muddy puddles and collected sticks. Children have their own personalised towels to help limit the spread of infection.

Children's dietary health is well supported through access to regular drinks. Packed lunches are stored safely. Children's understanding of healthy eating is encouraged through practical activities, such as growing and picking courgettes, cucumbers and tomatoes. The childminder takes active steps to prevent the spread of infection and promote good hygiene. She ensures the outdoor sandpit is covered, and children's toys and equipment are cleaned regularly.

Children's physical health is well promoted through daily walks to local parks and woodland with the family dog. Children have very good opportunities to explore the woods and climb on trees. They enjoy access to a well resourced play park, to extend their physical development through climbing, jumping and balancing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through secure procedures and appropriately fitted safety equipment. Their security is promoted by the childminder's effective visual checks to ensure the environment inside and out is safe for all children. They use a range of safe and suitable toys and equipment that are checked and monitored regularly.

Children are well supervised at all times. They understand the importance of staying safe inside and out, and this is effectively re-enforced through play and discussion. Children take controlled risks under supervision, to promote their development in a safe environment. They are shown how to hold sticks carefully to avoid injury to themselves or others, for example. Children climb trees with the assistance and guidance of the childminder. Children learn road safety on daily outings, and know about looking and listening before crossing the road.

Children are well protected from harm and neglect through the childminder's secure knowledge of child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident in this environment. They have a close and loving relationship with the childminder. Children display good levels of concentration and

attention during play activities. They choose freely from a wide range of resources in low level storage. The toys and activities available promote children's all round development. Children enjoy a range of practical activities, such as construction. They build a cart together, using plastic nuts and bolts. Children's independence is well promoted. They are encouraged to be independent in their personal hygiene routines, and put on boots and coats by themselves.

Children enjoy daily walks to local parks and woodland to explore the environment. Their imagination is well promoted through child led outdoor play, such as 'fishing' with a stick in a muddy puddle. They explore the natural environment through collecting leaves and fir cones. Children recall activities they have enjoyed with enthusiasm, such as fishing with nets and picking blackberries for a pie.

Children's language and vocabulary is well promoted by the high level of interaction. The childminder uses open ended question effectively to help children think for themselves and solve problems. Children's interest and curiosity is maintained through good, age appropriate discussion.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are well met by the childminder, who knows each child well. However, children have limited opportunities to learn about the wider world, as there are few resources that reflect cultural diversity and disability.

Children's behaviour is very good. The childminder uses positive strategies and encourages them to care for each other. Children take turns in pushing the cart around, and relate well to each other. They are encouraged and praised throughout the day, promoting their confidence and self esteem. They are polite and say please and thank you, spontaneously. The childminder is a good role model, and thanks children for being well behaved, kind and helpful.

Partnership with parents is satisfactory. Parents are kept informed of children's routines and development through informal, daily discussion.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and child orientated environment, by the experienced childminder. Play areas are well organised for a range of play, and rest as required. There is plenty of space available for children to play freely.

Children feel settled and secure through the clear, daily routine of indoor play activities, daily outings and visits to toddler groups. Plans are flexible to meet the children's individual needs and moods met each day. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children she cares for.

Relevant documentation is maintained and well organised, including parental

consent. This means that children are cared for in line with their parent's wishes, and supports the health and welfare of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

Written parental consent for the administration of medication, are now in place to ensure that children's health is monitored effectively. Children are supervised at all times in the kitchen ensuring their continued safety at all times.

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):

- increase resources that provide positive images of cultural diversity and disability

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