

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 139283  
**Inspection date** 26 July 2007  
**Inspector** Brenda Joan Flewitt

**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](http://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 1992. She lives with her husband and their adult son in Bridport, Dorset. The ground floor is used for childminding purposes with toilet facilities provided on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. She is currently minding five children under the age of five and one school aged child. She also cares for children over the age of eight years.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Children Come First Network. She is also a member of the local childminding group and is studying towards an NVQ level 3 qualification in child care.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted well at all times. They are cared for in a clean family home where they are encouraged in good practices for their own personal hygiene. For example, they wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food using liquid soap and individual towels. They are protected from the spread of infection through the childminder's routine procedures which includes a hygienic nappy changing system. There is a clear sickness policy which ensures that parents are aware that children must not attend if they have an infectious illness. Children's medication and accidents are well managed. The childminder has up-to-date training in first aid. She makes sure first aid resources are readily available, both at home and on outings, and completes the required records accurately.

Children enjoy a healthy lifestyle. They take part in a variety of activities where they have fresh air and exercise. This includes daily walks to and from school and pre-schools. During garden play children use large equipment such as a slide, rockers, ride-on and push-along toys, and play ball games. They learn to make choices from healthy food options for snacks and lunches. The childminder supplements food supplied by parents with choices of extra fruit and raw vegetables. Children can drink whenever they feel thirsty as there are resources available for them to help themselves to a drink of water.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe and secure family home where hazards and risks are identified and minimised. The childminder puts measures in place to help prevent accidents such as safety film on low-level glass, socket covers, cupboard locks, and safety gates to prevent young children accessing particular areas of the house. The good security arrangements mean that children are protected from uninvited visitors and that they cannot leave the building unsupervised. Children move around freely and in safety according to their age and stage of development because the childminder's home is organised appropriately. Children use toys and resources that are kept in good condition and there is a range of equipment available to keep children safe while eating or travelling. This includes a high chair and booster seat, buggies with harnesses and wrist straps.

Children learn what is expected if they must leave the building in an emergency. They are involved in practising the escape plan which includes a whistle to indicate what is about to happen. There is a clear written plan displayed with contact numbers of other childminders available to assist if required. All this contributes towards children's safety in a real situation. There is a clear policy which ensures that children are kept safe when they are on outings. This includes written parental permission, risk assessments of venues, and having first aid resources, a phone and contact numbers easily accessible. Children are made aware of their own safety through discussion about the dangers of talking to strangers, and by being involved in safe routines for crossing roads. This is enhanced by planned activities where children act out real situations with role play equipment.

The childminder has a clear understanding of Safeguarding Children procedures. She has recently updated her knowledge by attending a course, there is a comprehensive policy which is shared

with parents and existing injuries are recorded as routine. This all helps to protect children from harm.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled, secure and enjoy the time they spend with their childminder. They make good relationships with her and each other. They develop confidence in making their needs known as they can be sure of a friendly and caring response. The childminder encourages children's independence in practical activities such as feeding, using toilet, hand washing and helping with food preparation tasks.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which include art and craft, books and stories, music, dough, role play, construction, small world toys, puzzles and cooking. The childminder plans some activities linked to themes and topics. For example, children are gaining various experiences around a 'Jungle' theme. They make a collage picture and masks using a variety of materials, look at books and listen to stories about wild animals, which they have helped to choose from the library, and enjoy dressing up as animals from the jungle. From a very young age they learn and practise animal noises as they play with the small world toys. They enjoy positive interaction from the childminder who talks with them to help them extend their vocabulary and understand the world around them.

Children choose from a good range of toys and resources which are organised so that they can select for themselves according to their stage of development. For instance, babies can easily reach toys such as spinning tops, shape sorters, soft textured coloured balls and musical toys. Older children know what is stored in see-through plastic boxes or cupboards to enable them to make their choices.

Children's days include a good range of visits outside the home where they meet other people, use an extended range of equipment and explore their local environment. Weekly trips to a toddler group enables children to play alongside others and gain a trust in other familiar adults. Regular visits to the book library encourages children to enjoy books and join in sessions such as 'Rhyme Time'. Day trips to places like 'Farmer Palmers' give children the opportunity to learn about animals and enjoy the social occasion of picnicking with friends. All this helps develop children's positive attitude to the wider world.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are respected as individuals. The childminder knows each child well through the positive support she gives during their activities, and through on-going communication with parents. Children develop a good sense of belonging. They are cared for in a 'family' atmosphere where all ages get on well together. Children like to see photos of themselves and their friends in scrap books, fondly recalling previous activities they have taken part in.

Children behave well. Young children learn to share and take turns. Older children respond well to being given tasks of responsibility such as wiping the table before lunch. All children receive much praise and encouragement for efforts and achievements, which helps build their self-esteem.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive relationship with parents and carers. She supplies comprehensive information about the setting in the form of written policies, which parents sign to agree, and receive their own copy. The childminder is aware of the regulations regarding her responsibilities in responding to complaints from parents. However, the relative information supplied to parents is not very clear. There are daily opportunities for exchanging information on a daily basis to help meet children's individual needs and ensure that any additional requirements are addressed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children gain from the childminder's commitment to developing her role. She attends training courses to update her knowledge in various aspects of caring for children and is studying towards a childcare qualification. The good organisation of the premises, resources and structure of the day means that children are active in a safe environment, eat and rest as individual needs require and enjoy activities outside the home. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

All the required documentation and records are in place, well organised and completed accurately. There is clear written information for parents about most of the policies and procedures that promote children's health and safety, and working in partnership with parents.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

The last inspection recommended: that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote positive images of disability; that the fire drill is familiar to all children; and that the access to the rear garden is secure.

The childminder has increased the resources that promote positive images of people's differences to include disability, therefore, children use an appropriate range to help them develop an open attitude to diversity.

The childminder ensures that all children take part in practising the emergency escape plan, so that they know what to expect. The rear garden gate is secured with a chain. Therefore, children's safety is promoted in these areas.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection 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 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 information supplied to parents with regards to making a complaint.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)