



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 141915
Inspection date 03 May 2005
Inspector Jennifer Barton

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 satisfactory. 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 1976. She lives with her husband in a 3 bedroom semi-detached house in Puriton near Bridgwater in Somerset close to the village school. The ground floor is used for childminding which includes a lounge, dining/study rooms, play/store room, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is also an enclosed rear garden for outside play. There are no family pets.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years of age at any one time, but currently is only minding children of school age and above, therefore, minding is restricted to before and after school. The childminder

walks to the local school to take and collect children. Occasional minding during school inset days and school holidays is provided. At present there are 10 children on roll.

The childminder has a relevant NVQ 3 in Childcare and Education qualification and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They have a clear understanding of why they wash their hands before handling food and after visiting the toilet. They are also protected from illness and infection through policies and procedures, which are discussed with parents. Accident and medication records are completed appropriately, however, there are no parental written consents to enable the childminder to seek emergency advice or treatment.

Children are only minded before and after school but they are offered a range of physical activities both indoor and outdoor which contribute to their good health. Children are aware of their bodies and if they have had an active time at school they may choose to rest or participate in quieter activities, whatever, their needs are.

The childminder is aware of children's dietary requirements and has a variety of drinks and snacks for children to choose from, however, after school snacks do not include a choice of nutritious food, such as, fruit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder considers the age and needs of each child when planning the use of the environment and providing toys, equipment and activities. This enables children to choose from a suitable range of activities and to move safely and freely around the home. Children are very well supervised at all times as rooms are open plan and also by the use of mirrors installed in the play/storage room. Risk assessments and good procedures ensure the outdoor and indoor environment are well maintained. The childminder checks all toys children have used before they are stored away. The childminder promotes children's learning about safety through good routines such as, ensuring they sit down to eat and drink, and tidy away toys from the floor when they have finished using them.

The premises have appropriate locks and chains on doors, but they are not always used to keep children safe.

Children are well protected from the risk of fire by regularly practise of fire drills and the proper location of smoke detectors and fire blanket.

Children are protected because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues which has been developed through training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle very well at the childminders house. They enter confidently and are familiar with the good routines and quickly make themselves at home. Children relate well to one another and to the childminder and are able to discuss their day at school. Children are developing very good social skills because the childminder is interested in what they do and say and she consistently responds to them with praise and encouragement. Children not only benefit from planned activities which meet the needs of the children minded, but also the flexibility of the childminder to respond to children's ideas and suggestions.

Children are independent, they have easy access and are able to choose between a wide range of interesting activities and equipment.

Children spend their time purposefully as they enjoy activities to develop their skills in all areas of learning. Children eagerly participate in art and crafts such as, making spiders, and are competent using information technology resources such as, music keyboards and electronic games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals. The childminder meets the needs of all children very well, they have good routines that include rest times, active play and snacks. Children show care and concern for each other, they are able to share and enjoy playing together. Children make themselves at home quickly and enjoy their time with the childminder. They confidently move around the home deciding what to do, they are able to select activities and store their work on individual trays until they complete their activity.

The childminder promotes good behaviour through her example and by encouraging children to be kind and caring and to respect one another. Children know what is expected of them in the childminders home, they are regularly praised and encouraged and enjoy rewards such as stickers.

Children are learning about different cultures through playing, discussion and access to varied resources and activities such as, making Chinese lanterns and celebrating different festivals.

Children with special needs are supported very well with good procedures and appropriate steps taken to promote their individual welfare and development. A close relationship with parents ensures a consistent approach to children's care. Documentation and regular discussion with parents ensures children are cared for in line with parents wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The environment is organised well with good routines to meet children's needs well. Children's care, welfare and learning is promoted effectively through procedures, documents and close relationships with parents.

Children benefit from effective use of space, there are rooms for older and younger children, and noisy and quiet play. They can access all areas freely and independently as they wish. A large play/storage room is accessible to children where they can play or select from a wide range of suitable resources and equipment to use elsewhere.

The children enjoy a provision which is continually developing to meet their needs because the childminder regularly attends training and meetings to ensure she increases her knowledge and skills.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to devise and implement a system to record any incident of physical restraint and add details to the relevant policy. The childminder has provided an incident book to record details of any such physical restraint issues. The details are to be recorded in the same way as accidents and signed by parents to safeguard children's well being. The behaviour policy has been amended to reflect this and informs parents of the procedure.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints since the last inspection.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency advice or treatment so children's needs are met

- ensure door safety is always secured to protect children from harm
- provide snacks that include nutritious food to promote children's healthy growth and development

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