



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY272976
Inspection date	29 March 2006
Inspector	Julie Neal

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 lives in a quiet residential area in Galmington, Taunton. She has been registered as a childminder since 2003 and regularly cares for children, at her home, with another registered childminder. She lives with her 2 children aged 5 and 3 years of age, and her brother also lives with the family. Care is provided on the ground floor of the childminder's home, and there is an enclosed rear garden suitable for children's use. The childminder may provide care for a maximum of 4 children under 8 years when working alone, and a maximum of 10 children under 8 years when working with another childminder. Overnight care is not provided. The childminder is near to completing a level 3 childcare qualification, and is part of the

Taunton Deane and Taunton Deane Plus childminding networks. The childminder's family have a pet rabbit, guinea pig, and goldfish.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained environment where the childminder has good daily routines in place to ensure children are safe from illness and cross infection. For example, all children have their own drink cups which the childminder ensures are sterilised daily to prevent the spread of infection. Children's health is promoted well, as the childminder ensures they develop good personal hygiene practice, such as learning to wash their hands, and using their own flannels. Very young children are given good support in managing their personal care needs, according to the age and ability of each child, such as learning to get tissues when they need them and to dispose of these appropriately.

Meal times are used well to encourage children to develop an understanding of healthy eating and to promote social skills. For example, children choose items from their lunchboxes at snack time, and the childminder ensures these are presented well on plates or in bowls, which encourages children to develop good table manners. Children who are minded in the evening benefit from the provision of a home cooked meal, and the childminder ensures these are well balanced. All children can freely help themselves to drinks as the childminder keeps their individual cups topped up and easily accessible, and babies and very young children are frequently offered drinks.

Children benefit from good levels of fresh air and exercise. They play outdoors most days and make good use of the childminder's well equipped garden. For instance, they use the trampoline, there are swings, climbing equipment and various other resources available that encourage the development of large muscle skills and physical co-ordination. In addition, the childminder makes good use of the nearby park, and children regularly walk to local facilities, which encourages them to be active.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a welcoming and child friendly environment, and her systems for keeping children safe and secure are sound. Good organisation of space and resources ensure that children can freely move safely between areas of her home. Children benefit from spacious designated play areas where resources are organised well to be accessible to children according to their age and developmental stage. For example, older children can play with small items that are hazardous to younger children because the childminder ensures that they have safe opportunities to do so. Resources are safe to use because the childminder checks them daily, and

items used by babies are regularly sterilised.

Overall, the childminder ensures that children are kept safe and secure because she has suitable routines in place. For example, sleeping children are checked regularly, and the premises are secure at all times. Children learn about aspects of personal safety but there are inconsistencies. For instance, all children learn basic road safety as they walk to and from local amenities, however, only older children take part in practising the childminder's clear emergency evacuation procedures. Most procedures that underpin the care and wellbeing of children are in place and shared with parents. However, no information is provided about what the childminder would do in the event a child becomes lost while in her care. The childminder has a suitable understanding of child protection issues and this supports the safety of children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children show great enjoyment of the very good range of activities they take part in. They enthusiastically engage in discussion with the childminder about what they want to do, and this involvement ensures they are keen to participate. For instance, during a painting activity children engage in animated discussion with the childminder about the materials they wish to use, they choose these, they mix and pour their own paints and are absorbed as they create their own pictures and designs. The childminder plans well to ensure all children are included in activities. For example, while older children are using an electric mixer to make cakes, very young children are included because the childminder provides them with items from the home corner, including a toy mixer, so they can safely copy what the older children do. The childminder organises interesting activities outside of the home environment, such as trips to the local farmers market where children can taste different foods, and to toddler groups where they can learn to socialise in larger groups. The childminder encourages children to express themselves and children who are developing language skills are supported well, resulting in children being confident communicators.

Babies and very young children are secure and happy because their individual needs are met well. The childminder ensures that home routines, such as feed times and sleep times, are maintained well, thus, providing consistency of care. Children's individual progress is monitored informally but effectively overall, because the childminder knows each child well, and has a clear understanding of children's developmental stages. However, she is not using the Birth to three matters framework to monitor children's progress

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and confident within the provision. They demonstrate good levels of self-esteem as they interact with the childminder, and confidently make their needs known. They are developing good levels of personal independence, according to their age and ability. For example, children of all ages confidently select resources

in their play and suggest activities because they are encouraged by the childminder to make decisions and choices. The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and inclusion which is demonstrated in the good way she organises activities to ensure participation for all. Children also learn some simple signing, such as for 'please' and 'thank you', which supports a developing understanding of diversity.

Children are well behaved and helpful because the childminder has simple ground rules that encourage children to show respect and be kind to each other. Older children enjoy helping, for example, laying the table at meal times, and pouring paint for younger children. Children show care and concern for each other because the childminder is positive and consistent in her approach. Children's individual needs are met well which ensures they are happy and content.

Parents are generally kept well informed about the provision and what their children do. Effective use of a day book for younger children means that parents know about care routines such as how long their children have slept, and how much they have eaten, which ensures consistency of care. The childminder develops good relationships with parents and ensures there is good two way sharing of information. This means that she is well informed about each child's particular requirements and therefore able to meet their needs. Parents generally have access to procedures that underpin the childminder's practice. However, they are not informed about the procedure followed in the event a child becomes lost, nor about the record of any complaints received.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Organisation of space and resources is effective and maximises play opportunities for children. She and the childminder with whom she works, manage the day well to ensure that ratios are always maintained and that children have good levels of support. She plans well to ensure the development of each child through play, and uses her knowledge of the children to good effect. However, she does not use the Birth to three matters framework to monitor children's progress. Most documentation that underpins the care and wellbeing of children is in place, and parents are generally well informed about key procedures, such as health and safety, and child protection. However, they are not informed of the procedure followed in the event a child becomes lost, nor that the childminder must keep a complaints record. The childminder generally ensures that Ofsted are kept informed of any changes that affect her practice, however, there has been some inconsistency, which can have impact on the safety of children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to provide information to parents regarding her child protection procedures. This is now easily accessible to parents, ensuring they are informed of how the childminder will act in the event of a child

protection concern, and thereby supporting the safety and wellbeing of children.

Complaints since the last inspection

In March 2006 a concern was raised under standard 1: Suitable Person, regarding the suitability of a household member. Ofsted contacted the childminder and required her to ensure Ofsted are informed of any significant events, which may affect the registration. The childminder confirmed that Ofsted will be kept informed of any changes to the household. The childminder continues to be qualified for registration

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):

- ensure Ofsted are informed of any significant events that may affect registration.
- ensure information given to parents includes details of the procedure followed in the event a child becomes lost while in the childminder's care, and provide information regarding the complaints record.
- develop processes of monitoring children's progress through using the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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