



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY318585
Inspection date	12 June 2006
Inspector	Deborah Jane Starr

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 2005. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and 10 in St. George, North Somerset. The whole of the ground floor and designated areas on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for five children under five, one child under eight and three children over eight on a part-time basis.

The childminder takes children to and collects from local schools. She takes children to the local shops, parks and places of interest. The family has a dog and cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is effectively promoted. Children from a young age learn about the importance of good personal hygiene through daily routines. Children's hands are washed prior to snacks and meals and after use of the toilet and teeth are cleaned after meals. Policies and procedures that minimise the spread of illness and risk of infection are in place. For example, the exclusion of children when unwell, thorough nappy changing procedures, individual hand towels and a designated area in the garden for use by the family dog. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate. Accidents and the administering of medication are managed appropriately.

Children benefit from a range of regular physical activities that contribute to their physical health and development. Children develop batting, throwing, balance and crawling skills through various activities using bats and balls, sit-and-ride toys, swings, slides and tunnels; all of which promote control and co-ordination of their bodies. Regular use of the back garden and walks to local parks and the riverbank provide plenty of fresh air. Children are able to sleep and rest comfortably according to their needs.

Children develop an understanding of a healthy, nutritious, well balanced diet through snacks of fruit and freshly prepared meals offering a varied range of vegetables. Drinks are accessible at all times. Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and taken account of.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move safely around the well maintained home where hazards are clearly identified, minimised and regularly checked, for instance, low glass, plug sockets, smoke detectors and stair gates. Children play with and use a good range of high quality toys and equipment that is age appropriate and meets their individual developmental needs, for example, a cot, high chair and car seats. Children are actively encouraged to become aware of how to protect themselves from harm both within the home and when outside. Toddlers are guided to sit safely on chairs and all children regularly practise evacuation procedures. Young children wear wrist restraints when on walks, learn about road safety when crossing roads and know when on outings to stay within agreed boundaries. Discussion about 'Stranger/Danger' promotes older children's understanding further.

The childminder has all required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and protected, this includes written policies for the safe collection of children and if they are lost. The childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues and local procedures to be followed protects children from harm. Parents are well informed of her responsibilities through discussion, a written policy and the display of procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and secure within the childminder's home. The positive relationship between the childminder and children promotes their self confidence and enables them to explore the world around them and develop positive relationships with others. For example, toddlers approach unfamiliar adults such as the visiting inspector. The childminder effectively uses her knowledge of the children and sound understanding of child development to provide toys and activities that interest the children and help them progress. Children enjoy re-enacting their everyday experiences. They wear a tool belt, attempt to fit different tools into appropriate slots and use a pretend screwdriver and saw to mend a table. Children are eager to investigate toys and ask for help when needed. They are very interested in the world around them, squealing with delight when they recognise that two pretend fish are the same. Children enjoy regular opportunities to explore and experiment through messy play using play dough, clay and paints. Children's manipulation skills are promoted through threading laces and the picking up and holding of small containers to shake glitter onto glue; children are fascinated by the effect. They self-select musical instruments and enjoy playing symbols. Children's language is encouraged through the close attention given by the childminder and frequent stories and singing of nursery rhymes throughout the day. Regular walks, weekly visits to a toddlers group and occasional visits to a local soft play area and places of interest develop children's awareness of their local community.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are clearly identified and met. This is achieved through regular discussion with parents and the childminder's good knowledge of the children. To date the childminder has not minded a child with learning difficulties and physical disabilities. She has however, a positive attitude and if asked would discuss each child's individual requirements. Children's well-being and sense of security is supported through good settling-in procedures and daily routines. Displays of children's own work and their individual coat hooks promote their sense of belonging. Young children are proud of their achievements, beaming with delight when successfully placing sparkly jewels on a Fathers Day card. Resources such as books and dolls reflect positive images and help children gain an awareness of people who are different from themselves. However, meaningful experiences that promote children's understanding of the wider world and diversity and help them develop positive attitudes towards others who are different from themselves are few.

The childminder skilfully manages each individual child's behavioural needs through her calm, clear and consistent approach. Children understand clearly what is expected of them. Their self-esteem and sense of shared responsibility is promoted through the frequent praise and encouragement given by the childminder and their involvement with the setting of 'house rules'.

Children benefit from the positive relationship between parents and the childminder.

Parents are welcomed into the home and value the childminder's flexible approach to the care of their children. They are well informed of the childminder's policies and procedures and their child's daily experiences through some written policies, clear displays of documentation and information, daily discussion and a daily diary.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are at ease within the well organised home. The lay out of the play areas gives children space to move safely and independently. Children easily access and self select toys that are placed either at floor level or from well organised clearly labelled low level shelving, storage cabinets and boxes. Low level surfaces and child-sized furniture provides children with space to investigate toys. Flexible planning of the day supports children's developmental needs and ensures their individual needs are met; for example, a toddler's need for sleep and rest.

Children's well-being is promoted through appropriate, well-organised and accurate documentation that is stored confidentially. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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

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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):

- offer a broader range of meaningful experiences that promote children's understanding of diversity and the wider world.

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