



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142013
Inspection date	07 July 2006
Inspector	Sarah Warren
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 was registered in 1992. She lives with her husband. They live in a house in Sydneham, Bridgwater, Somerset. The whole of the ground floor, except the utility, and an upstairs bathroom and one bedroom for sleeping are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The family has three cats.

The childminder is a member of the Bridgwater College Childminding Network. She is registered to provide care for four children under the age of eight years and can provide care for two children overnight. She currently has two children on roll, both attending on a part time basis and no children stay overnight.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted well through the childminder keeping clear and accurate records for accidents and medication administration. She has clear procedures and policies for the exclusion of sick and infectious children. Parents are kept well informed about any local outbreaks such as head-lice and chicken pox. Children are learning to keep themselves hygienic through effective hand-washing procedures. Children know that they must wash their hands before and after eating, as well as after toileting. Children can access the toilet for themselves and ask for extra support if needed, this encourages children to learn independence. The risk of cross infection is minimised with children having their own individual towels, flannels and bedding. All working surfaces are disinfected prior to food preparation and eating. Toys and resources are routinely cleaned. However, small children frequently place toys in their mouth and share with each other, these are then packed away. There is insufficient frequency in cleaning of resources to minimise the spread of infection.

Children enjoy eating healthy and nutritious snacks provided by the childminder. They enjoy eating fresh fruit and vegetables. Children are learning about healthy eating through a range of interesting and appropriate activities such as, sticking pictures of healthy foods to paper plates. Children benefit from making visits to the local supermarket to buy new fruits and vegetables. They take them back to the childminder's home where they discuss and then try them to see if they like them or not. Children bring their own drinks in their packed lunches, although the childminder provides extra drinks that are suitable and in conjunction with parents wishes, especially in hot weather. Snack time is an enjoyable experience for children, who sit down at a child sized table and chairs. This is a sociable time where children chat and discuss their ideas and thoughts with the childminder. They sometimes eat outside on their child sized picnic bench under their 'special gazebo' which is also child sized.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a clean, well maintained home that is of a suitable temperature. Children keep cool in very hot weather with fans around the room. All areas of the home used for minding are cleaned daily to ensure they are safe and suitable for children. Children move freely and with confidence, they know where things belong and know the routine well. Resources are stored in low level floor boxes, giving children clear and easy access. As children can access these resources for themselves, they make decisions about their play, which aids them in their independence. Resources are varied and provide adequate challenges for children in the setting. They are developmentally sound and help children's progress in their learning and all round development.

Children are kept safe through the effective measures in place around the home. For example, stair gates prevent children accessing unsupervised areas. The childminder has installed other safety features around the home, helping to keep children safe further. For example, cupboard locks prevent children accessing harmful substances such as cleaning products.

The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection. She knows some of the possible signs and symptoms and different types of abuse, as well as the need to inform the appropriate authorities. However, she is unclear when to record these concerns and some of the other signs and symptoms, which compromises children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to a wide and varied range of resources and craft activities that are suitable and appropriate for children of all ages and abilities. They particularly enjoy playing with a range of large and small hand puppets, especially the giant dragon. These are sometimes used at story time, where children can choose from a wide selection of books. The puppets are used to help children focus and to maintain their attention levels. Children enjoy the interaction from the childminder, she plays on the floor at their level, asking them questions that further their learning and development. For example, when a child attempts to complete a sequence puzzle, the childminder asks 'are they getting bigger or smaller'? Children benefit from regular visits to the local Children's Centre, where they get involved in a range of different activities, such as cooking, signing and singing and music and movement. Children thoroughly enjoy their time spent in various activities and relish looking over old photographs of previous play and fellow children.

Children have been involved in helping the childminder purchase new fruit trees and then planting them out in the garden. They have also planted out tomatoes and strawberries. Children show great pride in their strawberry plants, and are confident to ask adults if they like strawberries, because they are so yummy! Children enjoy going out on regular outings to a variety of interesting places such as the beach and visits to the local park. Children's learning is further enhanced once they get back, as they then carry out linked activities. For example, after visiting the beach, each child paints a pebble to take home. Children's learning and development of early literacy is encouraged through a range of worksheets provided by the childminder. Children take pleasure in colouring these worksheets in and working through the tasks, supported by the childminder. For example, children learn to spot the difference, match the objects and learn to form numbers and letters.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder has a clear knowledge of the children's differing needs and ensures that their needs are met effectively. Children enjoy positive self esteem through the childminder offering them regular praise for their achievements and being kind and considerate to others. For example, the childminder compliments children on how nicely and carefully they pack away the play foods and help younger children to complete the same task. Children are learning about the wider world through a range of suitable activities and resources, such as, celebrating alternative festivals like Diwali, where children made candle holders to celebrate the festival of light. Children's needs are met well through careful discussion with parents and the use of required documentation. Parents are kept well informed about all aspects of care through daily discussion at the start and end of each day, as well as the use of

certain records for medicines and accidents. However, the childminder is unclear about the recording complaints and plans to gain further information on this. Parents are fully informed about any policies and procedures prior to their child commencing care at the childminder's home. Children behave well due to the childminder's effective behaviour management strategies, all of which have been agreed with parents beforehand. This aids in the consistency of the care that they receive and promotes children to feel secure and valued. Children play co-operatively and are beginning to share appropriately through the effective support and clear explanations offered by the childminder. She currently does not care for any children with special needs or English as an additional language.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children receive satisfactory care from an experienced and suitably qualified childminder in an effectively organised environment. She is warm, caring and friendly and relates well to the children. Space, resources and the local environment are used appropriately to provide children with a variety of play opportunities. She has a sound knowledge of children's development and uses this to provide appropriate activities that are suitable for the children being cared for.

The childminder has most of the required documentation in place to underpin her practice. Currently her complaints record is not up to date with regulation. She reviews and checks all records every six months, ensuring that she has up to date and accurate information on the children in her care. She keeps these records securely in a folder and can access them easily. All records are kept confidential and are retained for the appropriate time scales needed. She meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete two recommendations relating to the security of the premises and ensuring that children are unable to leave them unsupervised. Secondly, she was asked to ensure accident records are sufficiently detailed and confidentiality maintained at all times. The premises are now secure with the front door remaining locked at all times and stair gates prevent children accessing unsupervised areas of the home; this means children are kept safe. Accident records are now more confidential, with individual records being kept for each child. However, these are still very brief accounts of what took place and children's welfare may be compromised.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which can be seen 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 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):

- improve knowledge and understanding of all child protection procedures and the possible signs and symptoms in line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- ensure all resources are cleaned regularly

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