



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY293549
Inspection date	03 May 2005
Inspector	Dawn Biggers

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 2004. She lives with her husband and daughter aged twenty months, in the Bedminster area of Bristol. Most areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and is currently minding four children all of whom attend on a part-time basis. She attends the local toddler group and park.

The childminder is a member of a local childminders support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about good hygiene practices through well-planned daily routines. Excellent procedures such as the childminder wearing disposable gloves for nappy changing and using individual flannels/towels for children sustain high levels of hygiene and prevent the spread of infection. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate. She manages accidents and the administration of medication well and shares the records with parents. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care, being supported from a young age.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. Younger children are offered drinks throughout the day. They enjoy varied, well presented meals and snacks. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to them and meet their individual needs.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. Physical play opportunities are available outdoors to help them develop control of their bodies, for example balls and skittles. Regular visits to local park and soft play areas improve children's physical skills. All are able to rest and be active according to their needs. The childminders good understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support gives them confidence to try out new skills, for example learning to stand.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for within an organised home where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder explains safe practices, such as why children should pick up items in their way and helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. However devised evacuation procedures have not been practised. She maintains children's safety outside the home, by using appropriate equipment like buggy board, reins and discussion.

Children independently select activities from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures, although these are not shared with parents in making them aware of how children are safe guarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well at the childminder's house. They are confident and make themselves at home. They relate appropriately to each other and are starting to socialise with other children by regularly attending the local toddler group. This enables them to develop their language skills. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities which appeal to all. Babies are stimulated with a range of sensory resources which encourage their progress. Musical activities (singing, rhymes and instruments) contribute to developing children's communication skills. They listen and respond to these moving rhythmically, developing awareness of their bodies. Children spend their time freely and with some organised activities, developing their concentration and enjoy for example, role and imaginative play with the dolls and tea set. Exploration with paint and glue help children represent their feelings and ideas in a variety of ways appropriate to their age and develop their sensory experiences. Children's displayed work boosts their confidence and self esteem as they take pride in their achievements. Although the childminder has a good awareness of children's development she has not fully extended her activities to promote younger children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of resources to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others. For example, she uses sign language through their day. Children learn about their local community as they visit the city farm and go on routine outings to the local park, toddler and soft play groups.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routine as discussed with their parents. Children show some care and concern for each other and enjoy playing together, as well as alongside one another. They are well behaved and respond to the expectation of the childminder, who supports them in their emotional development by consistently praising and encouraging them. Children make themselves at home, becoming confident about making choices and asking what they want to play with from a young age. They have time to relax as well as be active. Children respond well while looking at pictures and use spoken words within their vocabulary to say what they see, hear, and feel.

Relationships with parents are friendly and they are made welcome. The childminders prospectus provides information about her services, enabling parents to be clear about what is available for their children. She works closely with parents following routines and shares important information with them in a daily diary and through discussion about children's needs and interests.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease within a well organised, inviting environment. This means they are confident to initiate and begin to explore their own play. All the necessary documentation is in place which ensures that children are well cared for. Information, policies and procedures are shared with parents to keep them informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Flexible planning arrangements are adapted to keep children safe and to enable them to make good progress in all areas of their development. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable as this was the first inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- further develop the range of activities for younger children, for example by using the Birth to three framework.
- ensure that information is shared with parents about Child Protection Procedures, when safeguarding children.

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