



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142567
Inspection date	14 June 2006
Inspector	Brenda Joan Flewitt
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, one adult child and her younger child aged 12 years. The family live in Yeovil, Somerset. The home is based on the first and second floor of the house. The first floor includes use of an open plan sitting room, dining room and kitchen with a separate toilet facility. The second floor is only used to access the bathroom. There is a garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding one school-aged child on a part time basis.

The family have one dog, a cat and a hamster to which the children have supervised access. They also keep tropical fish. The childminder is employed as joint supervisor at a local preschool. She holds an NVQ level three in childcare and education, and is member of the local childminding support network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean environment where they develop independence in managing their own personal hygiene. The toilet facilities are easily accessible, and the childminder reminds children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food. Children are protected from the spread of infection through the childminder's procedures and cleaning routine. For example, the meal table is wiped with anti-bacterial cleaner before food is served. Children use individual towels, and parents are made aware that children must not attend if they have an infectious illness.

Children's medicines are managed appropriately, the policy includes written parental consent, and keeping records of medicines administered. However, children's health is not fully promoted with regards to accidents. Parental consent for seeking emergency treatment has not been requested, and the first aid resources are not replenished sufficiently.

Children's healthy eating is promoted well. They are offered a nutritious snack as they return from school, which includes options such as toast and marmite, and the option of fruit. Drinks are made readily available. Children take part in regular activities that promote physical development. These include playing ball games, walking the dog and visits to the play park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children's safety is compromised when playing in the garden. The pond is not covered and hazardous garden equipment is accessible. For example, an electric lawn mower is left on the lawn, plugged in. The storage of hazardous substances within the home poses a risk to children's safety. There are toxic cleaning chemicals within children's reach in the areas independently used by children, including the toilet area. Security arrangements do not fully promote children's safety. Although uninvited visitors cannot come in, there is a risk of children leaving the building unsupervised as the front door is not locked.

Children use a good range of equipment which is kept in good condition. There are satisfactory emergency evacuation procedures that protect children if they must leave the home in an emergency, however, children have not been involved in discussion or practices to ensure they know what is expected of them. Children are protected on outings through the childminder's routine procedures. These include risk assessing venues, and making sure that appropriate clothing and contact numbers are available. Children learn about road safety as they are involved in the process of looking for traffic, and the right time to cross.

The childminder's secure understanding of child protection issues and the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures contributes towards the children's safety and welfare. The childminder regularly updates her knowledge by attending training and has useful information available for reference.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and secure. They enjoy their time after school in the company of their childminder and her family. They develop confidence in making their needs known as they can be sure of a friendly response.

Children are involved in a variety of activities that capture their interest, providing a good balance of active play and opportunities to rest. These include construction, art and craft, small world toys, books, games, dough, role play and regular fresh air and exercise. Children like to share their ideas which are responded to positively by the childminder. For example, a child talks about the pictures in his magazine and how he would like to make a picture with them to take home for his bedroom. The childminder makes sure that he has the materials he needs to complete his idea and supports him where required.

Children choose from a good range of play provision which is stored appropriately to allow them to make choices according to their age and stage of development. For instance, a child chooses some shaped bricks and spends time independently building constructions and using his imagination with small world toys. He shares his school book with his childminder as she supports his reading.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well and respond positively to the consistent praise and encouragement offered by the childminder for effort and achievement. This helps build children's self-esteem. Children are welcomed and made to feel they belong. For example, a child is keen to offer the dog her biscuit treat and knows where they are kept to carry out the task independently.

Children develop a positive awareness to people's differences from the good example set by the childminder and from positive images of diversity they see in the resources they use. The childminder discusses with children the importance of respect for all people, and supports them through their own experiences.

Children benefit from the childminder's ongoing communication with parents. She offers daily opportunities to exchange information verbally, which contributes towards meeting children's individual needs and any additional requirements. There is written information available to inform parents of the childminder's policies and procedures. The childminder records the required information about each child. However, there is no written agreement with parents in place.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The organisation of the premises does not sufficiently promote children's safety. Although children move around safely to and from various areas, there are times when they are exposed

to hazards. Time and resources are organised appropriately to allow children to eat, play and rest as individual needs require.

Children benefit from the childminder's experience in working in a pre-school and her commitment to developing her role through training. She holds an NVQ level three qualification and regularly updates her knowledge of various aspects of child care by attending courses and workshops.

All legally required records and documentation are in place and well organised, however not all important parental permissions have been requested. The childminder does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that all hazards in the garden were made safe or inaccessible to children, and that records of information about children's individual needs were kept up to date.

The childminder removed the specific hazard of window frames containing glass from the garden, however, there are other hazards remaining which make the garden unsafe for children to play.

The childminder makes observations and records how children settle. She discusses children's specific needs with parents, but has not completed a formal agreement.

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 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- make the garden area safe for children to play, which includes making the pond safe or inaccessible

- ensure that hazardous substances are stored safely, so that they are not accessible to children.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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