



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	104690
Inspection date	10 July 2006
Inspector	Mary Dingley
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 has been registered since 1989. She lives with her husband and two adult children in South Molton. The family live in a modern house in a residential area a short walk from shops and local facilities. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, with access upstairs for the bathroom and toilet. There is a large fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. There are currently seven children on roll. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local carer and toddler groups when possible.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about good hygiene practices through everyday routines and good examples set by the childminder. They are encouraged to wash their hands after using the potty, playing

outside and before meals. The childminder washes her hands, where children can see her, after changing nappies or helping children with their toileting. This helps to reduce the risk of cross infection.

Sick children are cared for appropriately. The childminder monitors their condition, contacts parents and jointly decides what is best for the child concerned. Children with infectious illness are excluded which helps reduce the risk of spreading infection. Any accidents that occur are recorded appropriately and parents contacted. Children enjoy regular fresh air and exercise. The childminder walks everywhere with them. They also have good opportunities to play outside in the garden where they use bicycles and scooters to promote their gross motor skills.

Children have good access to drinks throughout the day. These are offered frequently and are also available for children to see and help themselves, or ask, depending on their ability. This ensures their fluids levels are maintained according to their needs. Meal times are sociable occasions where children sit together with the childminder, promoting their social skills. Healthy meals are provided by parents or the childminder and stored appropriately in the refrigerator. The childminder records children's allergies and dietary needs, thus helping to ensure their individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a welcoming environment and are able to rest and sleep according to their needs. Their risk of accidental injury in and outside the home is reduced as the childminder has a sound awareness of safety issues. Resources and equipment used are cleaned regularly, safe and suitable for their purpose. Children are supervised well. They are never left alone in the garden and when walking on outings, the childminder ensures they hold onto the push chair or wear reins. Children learn about keeping themselves safe because the childminder teaches them about road safety and how to cross the road and explains situations to them.

The childminder has devised a fire plan and has practised emergency evacuation of the property with the older children. However, this has not been undertaken with younger ones. This affects the childminder's knowledge of any safety issues that occur, especially with this age group. Records of previous fire drills are not kept which means these practices cannot be monitored or evaluated for future reference. The childminder checks sleeping children every 15 to 30 minutes depending on the age of the child. She looks for physical signs such as, colour, breathing, ensuring the baby's mouth is not covered and checks for warmth. However, records of these checks are not kept. Therefore the childminder does not have a full picture of the child's day whilst in her care.

Children are very well protected from harm. The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and is very aware of her responsibilities in this area. She has the latest guidelines to refer to if needed and informs parents of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy in the childminder's care. They enjoy a wide variety of activities and resources promoting their all round development. For example, they use natural materials such as leaves and flower petals for collages and their sense of feel is developed through different textures such as, netting and lace. Children enjoy interesting activities such as, counting, cooking and sorting to promote their mathematical thinking. They use musical instruments, story books and dressing up clothes to develop their imagination. Young children are able to play correctly with old mobile telephones, knowing how to hold them.

The childminder uses everyday activities and conversations to develop children's independence. For example, she allows them to make mistakes in a safe environment and learn from these. They have choices about their activities and learn how to feed and dress themselves when appropriate. Children's confidence is promoted because the childminder constantly praises them for the slightest achievement.

Interaction between the children and the childminder is good. She constantly talks to them about what she is doing, supervises and supports them in their play and offers security and guidance. This helps children to feel valued.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the childminder's home. They learn about diversity and their wider community because the childminder talks to them about families and has some resources reflecting different cultures. Children learn to help each other as the childminder encourages them to share and take turns during their play. The childminder gives children the attention they need and ensures all are included. For example, if one child is particularly dominant during a story or activity the childminder ensures other children are included and specifically asks them a question.

Children learn to respect each other and adults because the childminder shows and teaches them respect. For example, they learn to say 'please' and 'thank you'. The childminder has appropriate ground rules and boundaries which all children are familiar with. This gives them a sense of belonging and security.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder is calm and uses age appropriate strategies to manage any unwanted behaviour, also offering constant praise and encouragement. Older children learn about right from wrong. The childminder explains what they have done wrong and ensures children understand this.

Good information is gained from parents to enable appropriate care to be given and children's individual needs met. For example, parents complete an information sheet prior to children starting which includes information such as likes, dislikes, phobias, allergies and family make-up. The childminder ensures parents have a good account of their child's time with her by discussing

issues at the end of each day. The childminder has letters of praise and compliments from parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are at home in this well-organised environment. They are able to self select their own resources from those available and play at their own pace. The childminder maintains all her required training, such as first aid, which contributes to children's safety. Space is organised well so older children are given time to play on their own without being interrupted by the younger ones, thus meeting their individual needs. All mandatory records are maintained and the childminder has devised some of her own policies over and above those required. She ensures information for parents is kept up to date such as, Ofsted's new contact number, which is displayed on the parents' poster. This underpins the smooth running of the service. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve some safety issues such as, emergency evacuation of the property and her awareness of child protection. The childminder has only practised emergency evacuation of the property with the older children and a recommendation from this inspection is made to extend this to all children. She has undertaken a course on child protection and now has a good knowledge of these issues. As a result, children are well protected.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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

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 emergency evacuation of the property is practised with all children and records of these kept
- ensure records are kept of when sleeping children have been checked and their condition at the time of checking.

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