



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	106889
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 December 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sue Davey
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 has been registered since 1984. She lives with her husband; three children aged 13, 17 and 18 years; and two foster children, both aged one year. The family live in Bedminster, in Bristol and have two dogs and a cat. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. The property is within walking distance of shops, parks and local amenities.

The childminder is registered to work with an assistant. Currently there are two children on roll, although none were present during the inspection. The childminder takes children to local toddler groups and sometimes uses a vehicle for transport on outings. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is clean and warm. Through discussion, she demonstrates a sound knowledge of how to promote health and hygiene. For instance, she explains that children learn to wash their hands before eating; they do not have contact with the dogs; and she does not admit children if they are sick or infectious. The childminder understands the need to obtain parent's consent and record any medication administered to children. However, records show the information obtained regarding medication lacks detail. The childminder has a current first aid certificate and informs parents if accidents occur.

The childminder explains that she provides children with food and drink in line with parents' wishes. She records on individual registration forms, any food allergies or particular dietary needs. Children snack on fresh fruit and receive drinks throughout the day. The childminder's garden is not appropriate for children to play in, so she takes them to local parks and toddler groups where they engage in energetic play. Babies and young children use a travel cot or the settee in the lounge, if they need to sleep and rest during the day.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The childminder demonstrates that she provides a safe and secure environment for the children in her care. She supervises them well at all times, indoors and outside. The accident record provides further evidence of this as there are very few entries. A gate has been specially made to prevent children from entering the open-plan kitchen and they do not have access to the stairs; all electrical sockets are covered; and the smoke alarms are in good working order. There is a wide range of toys and materials, all in good condition and suitable for children's different stages of development. Resources, stored in the utility room, are very well organised in individual containers. The childminder asks children what they want to play with or selects appropriate items. She makes sure children cannot leave the premises unsupervised and protects them from people who have not been vetted.

There is a good system in place to ensure that only people authorised by parents, are allowed to collect children. The childminder has excellent knowledge of child protection issues and knows exactly what to do if she has concerns about a child. Her procedures follow local safeguarding children board guidelines and parents are fully aware of her responsibility towards children's welfare.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has many years experience of caring for children. She explains how she provides suitable activities to help children learn and develop through play. Children have access to puzzles, books, art and craft materials, construction toys, dressing up clothes and role-play equipment. There is also suitable equipment to encourage babies to develop walking skills and

explore different textures and shapes. The childminder talks about the many and varied activities and outings where children learn to socialise with others and enjoy new experiences. Outings include regular attendance at local toddler groups; trips to the city farm and visits to the zoo.

The childminder explains how she quickly forms close relationships with the children and provides plenty of cuddles and attention. She plans daily routines around the children's needs and talks to the parents every day about their child's progress and wellbeing.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

The childminder values each child as an individual and provides a welcoming environment for all families. She has attended training on equal opportunities and obtained a good selection of resources to promote positive images of people from all sectors of the community. She works closely with parents and other agencies, and actively seeks information to make sure children are cared for according to their need. This sometimes involves researching material from the internet. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates her wealth of experience caring for children with a wide range of special needs.

The childminder has a quiet and calm manner. She explains that she manages children's behaviour according to their age and level of understanding. If necessary, she removes children from their play for a brief period. This gives them time to calm down and they quickly overcome their frustrations.

The childminder describes how she builds strong relationships with parents and regularly talks to them about their child's wellbeing and progress. If appropriate, she provides them with good support to enhance their own parenting skills. The childminder has received a large number of 'thank you' cards and letters from parents past and present, which are full of praise for the care their children receive. Parents recognise their children make great progress while placed with the childminder. Records show, the childminder has a good understanding of the most recent changes to the complaints procedure. She has a system in place to record and share complaints with parents should it ever be necessary.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is very experienced and committed to on-going professional development. Records show that she has attended various relevant training workshops. The childminder has a number of written policies in place, which she shares with parents. These provide a good basis to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. All necessary documentation is in place to record children's personal details, their attendance, accidents, incidents and medication.

The childminder is registered to work with an assistant, although this has not been discussed with current parents. She works closely with other professionals and parents to identify and meet children's individual needs. All documents are securely stored and shared with parents,

in a confidential manner. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to protect children from potential hazards in the kitchen and maintain the smoke alarms. She was also asked to organise resources to make them more easily accessible to children. Since then the childminder has fitted a gate to prevent children from entering the kitchen area; there are smoke alarms on each floor of the house, all in good working order; and most toys and materials are now well organised. The bulk of resources are stored tidily in separate containers, in a dedicated area of the utility room. It is not appropriate for children to have access to this area but the childminder asks them what they want to play with and changes items as necessary.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- make sure information obtained from parent's to administer medication contains sufficient detail
- inform parents that sometimes children are also cared for by an assistant.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)