



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142567
Inspection date	11 January 2007
Inspector	Samantha Powis
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 1992. She lives with her husband, one adult child and her younger child aged 13 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 used to access the bathroom and for sleep facilities. There is a garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children.

The family have one dog and a cat to which the children have supervised access. They also keep tropical fish. The childminder 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 home. They follow effective hygiene procedures to promote their health and well being. They are encouraged to wash their hands prior to having a snack and after using the toilet and are provided with separate cloths and towels which are identified by their own special name labels. This minimises the risk of cross infection. Children's ongoing health needs are supported as the childminder is qualified in first aid and has a suitable first aid kit, the contents of which are checked regularly. Basic systems are in place to record accidents and administered medication.

Although the childminder has a policy regarding the exclusion of children with infectious illnesses, she does not always adhere to this in practice. This increases the risk of illnesses being passed on between the children, therefore, not fully protecting their health. Children's health is promoted as they are encouraged to engage in physical activity on a daily basis. They regularly go on walks with the childminder and use the outdoor play areas. This benefits their all round health and well-being. Younger children are supported in learning to crawl and walk, as the childminder organises activities to strengthen their muscles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a safe and welcoming environment. They are well supervised when playing inside and out. Toys and equipment are in good order and the childminder checks and cleans them to ensure their continued suitability. Children are safe as the childminder is vigilant about safety precautions within the home and when on outings. For example, she has sought information about recent changes to car seat regulations, to ensure appropriate safety measures are followed when children are transported in her vehicle. The childminder has given thorough consideration to the evacuation of children being cared for during the day and overnight, helping to protect children in the event of an emergency. A fire blanket is available and smoke alarms are checked regularly to ensure they are fully operational. Children are familiar with emergency evacuation procedures as the fire drill is practised regularly.

Children are effectively protected from harm and neglect as the childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She has obtained documents to support her and ensures parents are fully aware of her role and responsibility.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and relaxed in the childminder's care. They develop a good relationship with the childminder as they receive lots of attention and physical contact, which helps them to feel secure. The childminder has developed a good understanding of the children's individual needs and routines, and plans activities accordingly. She uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage curriculum to help her plan a broad range of age

appropriate activities which promote the children's all round development and learning. She regularly makes observations of children as they play, which helps her to plan activities to support their development.

The childminder spends all her time interacting with the children. She responds both verbally and by using facial expressions, which excites children so they giggle and laugh. She gets down to their level and joins in with their play. Children have plenty of opportunities to make choices and organise their own play, as resources and toys are plentiful and stored to allow children to access them independently. The children's social development is promoted through regular attendance at the local toddler and childminding groups. Here they also get involved in a variety of activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's own routines are respected by the childminder, which ensures they receive consistent care according to their individual needs. The childminder takes time to get to know about the child and family before she cares for them, to ensure any individual requirements are met. She is willing to develop her own skills to enable her to meet the needs of particular children attending. Children are encouraged to have a positive attitude towards diversity. The childminder organises activities and offers them resources that encourage this. For example, she is planning for the children to try some foods and use role play equipment such as woks and chopsticks as they learn about Chinese New Year. This all helps to promote their understanding and awareness of the needs of others.

Children are secure in knowing the childminders boundaries and expectations as she is very fair and consistent in her expectations. She shares her behaviour management policy with parents to promote consistency. She has a quiet and calm approach, using praise and encouragement to promote wanted behaviour and tries to ignore unwanted behaviour. The children learn to be polite due to the childminder acting as a good role model.

Very good relationships are established with parents. The childminder liaises with parents on a daily basis to keep them informed of the children's routines and progress. A two way daily diary is used to record the children's sleep patterns, feeds and nappy changes, as well as basic information about daily events. Parents are provided with photographs of their own child, these provide a clear record of the child's experiences. To promote consistency, the childminder has developed a range of policies, which are shared with parents. These are generally effective in helping all to work together successfully to meet the children's' needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled within the welcoming environment. Space within the home is organised effectively to support the children's needs, giving them areas in which to play, eat and rest in comfort and safety. Children benefit from the childminders willingness to update her own

knowledge and skills to ensure their needs are fully supported. Although written policies are in place, the childminder does not always adhere to these to fully support children's health.

To protect children's safety and ongoing well-being, the childminder keeps details of their individual needs and agreements with parents. The daily register is maintained to ensure it clearly identifies times of attendance for all children. However, the use of the accident and medication records does not ensure that information can be retained and referred to if necessary. For example, details of administered medication are recorded in the child's diary instead of the administered medication folder. This diary is taken home with the child, and therefore, is not available on the premises for the childminder to refer back to. Records containing personal information about children and their families are kept securely to ensure confidentiality is maintained. The provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection an overall judgement of inadequate was given. Two actions were raised for the childminder to address, these were to make the garden safe and to ensure hazardous substances are stored safely. The childminder has fitted a cover over the pond, which ensures children cannot access the water. Any cleaning products are kept out of children's reach or stored in lockable cupboards. This means that children's safety is protected when they use indoor and outdoor areas.

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 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 further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- further minimise the risk of cross infection, by adhering to a policy regarding the exclusion of sick children
- review the use of documents such as the accident and medication records to ensure accurate details are retained to support children's ongoing health and well-being.

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