



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	106784
Inspection date	06 February 2007
Inspector	Timothy Butcher
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 satisfactory. 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 1999. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and five in Knowle, Bristol. The whole of the ground floor of the property, except for the lounge, and the whole of the first floor of the property, except for the bathroom, are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is currently minding 12 children under eight years of whom five children are under five years, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for children over eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and has use of a car. She takes children to the local park and attends a toddler group.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children for whom English is an additional language. She holds a BTEC. National Diploma in Caring Services (Nursery Nursing).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is effectively promoted because the childminder has good procedures and practices in place to meet their individual physical, nutritional and health needs. Young children are kept comfortable and have their nappies checked regularly. A hygienic nappy changing procedure is followed to protect children from the spread of infection. When outside the childminder ensures that children do not get too cold. They happily put on hats and coats and are encouraged to be aware of the changes to body temperature through simple explanation. The childminder has good procedures in place to record accidents and keeps suitable records should medication be given to children.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's dietary needs as she consults closely with parents and carers. Initial procedures clearly identify their preferences and there is on-going dialogue about the day-to-day needs of children, both verbally and through the use of a diary. Drinks are made readily available at regular intervals throughout the day and are on display. Children are involved in menu planning. Children are sensitively encouraged to eat healthily, for example, they are offered a selection of fresh fruit at snack time. They begin to learn about making healthy choices. Parents comment positively on the flexibility of the childminder in regard to the provision of food.

Children make good progress in their physical development because the childminder monitors the progress they make. The childminder ensures that children have regular opportunities to be active and to have fresh air, for example, through visits to the park and toddler groups. Children make good use of the well-equipped garden with its slides, see-saw, trampoline, sand and water play, and sit-on equipment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They are protected from potential hazards because the childminder has carried out a thorough risk assessment of the premises and has the majority of control measures in place to minimise risks to children. Stair gates are in place to prevent younger children from straying into areas unsupervised. Smoke detection equipment is in place and the premises are secure. The childminder ensures that children are supervised closely when using the garden, however, a detailed risk assessment has not been carried out in regard to the large trampoline. This has the potential to undermine the good safety of children.

Children play in a spacious and child-friendly environment. The playroom is especially made bright and attractive to them with labelled posters and examples of their work on walls in several areas. A wide range of good toy resources and other equipment support children's learning and development. Resources are well organised with labelled boxes of toys stored at their eye-level. The toys and materials presented are very appropriate to the stage of development of the children minded and are made from a range of different materials. They

match children's developmental abilities, maintain their interest and provide very suitable challenge. Children freely access toys and are able to exercise choice of activities.

Children have their welfare safeguarded. The childminder has a solid understanding of her responsibilities in regard to the protection of children. She has a clear awareness of the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and has a clear awareness of the procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have positive experiences through play. They have fun, show excitement and make good progress because the childminder provides a balanced range of stimulating activities and good play opportunities that support their all round development. She has a clear understanding of child development and each child's current abilities. Well targeted play opportunities effectively support children's learning. Younger children make very good general progress in all areas of development, given their starting points. The childminder has a thorough understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and uses this well to ensure that she covers all areas of learning for young children. The childminder uses a format similar to the Foundation Stage to observe and track older children's development.

The childminder balances the needs of children well, by combining activities for children of different abilities and by her skilful interactions. The childminder is responsive to their interests, for example, by providing a snorkel and mask along with other items that follow a child's interest in penguins and diving. A child confidently explains about 'the plankton that penguins eat' and names the different sea creatures. The child is introduced to the concept of larger and smaller as the child finds toy models for another child who sorts, matches and counts the sea-life and farmyard animals that are being played with. Children have ample opportunities to be creative, for example, a cut and stick activity has a hedgehog shape. Paint and pasta are used to decorate it. They explore a range of materials like black play dough, paint, water and sand. While outside at the sand tray they count spades and explore texture and capacity by filling different containers. With good support they successfully build sand castles to knock down.

Children enjoy the good opportunities to use their imaginations and explore through pretend play. They use such things as dressing up materials and larger items of equipment like the home corner and the 'Bob the builder' tool bench to bring the play to life. A child wearing a fire helmet squeals with delight as he is called into the playroom to put out the fire by the childminder and is fully engrossed in the pretend play.

The childminder provides skilled interventions that effectively promote children's learning and provides suitable challenge. She provides high levels of interaction with open-ended questions that get children to think and to express themselves. They count and name in a wide variety of situations throughout the day. The childminder offers praise and encouragement in all activities and as a result children develop confidence and self-esteem. They are happy and secure, and clearly enjoy the warm interactions with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very well supported to settle and to feel confident. The childminder very skilfully provides sensitive support to children, using a variety of interventions to ensure that they feel secure, if they are anxious. The childminder provides praise and positive attention to all children. They experience appropriate guidance and support around sensible boundaries. Children enjoy a relaxed and warm relationship with her. They are valued and treated as individuals. Children behave well and are generally responsive, for example, a child is asked to walk rather than run in the hallway he begins to learn to do so even though he is very keen to return to the playroom. There is a brief behaviour management policy that is shared with parents.

The childminder has an awareness of equality of opportunity issues and has a suitable number of resources to help her with her practice. Children learn about diversity and the wider world through familiarity with the multi-cultural toys, dressing up materials and books in every day use. As a result, children have positive experiences when learning about the world around them. The childminder has a suitable procedure in place to identify with parents how best to meet the individual care needs of all children. She has experience of caring for children with additional needs and works closely with other professionals and parents to ensure specific needs are met.

Children benefit from the good partnership that the childminder has with parents and carers. The childminder ensures that parents and carers are fully consulted and that their consents and permissions are comprehensively gained, with one exception. Parents are kept well informed about their child's day through a comprehensive diary and through discussion at either end of the day. The childminder has a strong awareness of children's home circumstances and interests. The good exchange of information contributes directly to the good quality of care provided, as children have their individual needs closely met. Information about the progress that children make is made available to parents through the child's diary and through the child's developmental profile which they can see.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is in breach of a regulation because she has not informed the regulator of a change to her circumstances in regard to the ages of her children and is in breach of her conditions of registration because she currently minds three children under five years at one time. The circumstances have been discussed with the provider and a change to conditions agreed with a warning letter.

The childminder is very well organised. She organises her time, space and resources effectively to meet the needs of children. Policies, procedures and other documentation are used to promote the welfare, care and learning of all children. Records contribute to the safe management of the provision and most consents are sought, however, the record of permission for emergency medical treatment is not completed for each child. Daily diaries and discussion ensure that parents and carers are consulted and kept fully informed.

The childminder shows good commitment to extending her own professional development and practice, for example, through the training she has undertaken in regard to child protection. Children experience a broad range of stimulating play opportunities in a welcoming and supportive environment. The childminder effectively uses the Birth to three matters framework and wishes to develop this and her use of other formats further. She has a good understanding of how children learn through play and of their individual developmental needs. Overall, children make good progress in all areas of development, given their starting points.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was agreed that improvements would be made to medication and accident records and that emergency evacuation procedures would be practised and recorded. It was further agreed that she would extend her knowledge in regard to a child protection procedure.

Since the last inspection, medication and accident records have been reviewed and now comply with the requirements of the National Standards. As a result children's health is better promoted.

An emergency evacuation procedure is in place. It is practised with children and a record of the practice kept. As a result the childminder is better prepared should an emergency occur that requires the evacuation of the building and children are better protected.

The childminder has undertaken some training on child protection. As a result children are better protected and the provider now has a clear understanding of child protection procedure.

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

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):

- ensure parental permission for emergency medical treatment is consistently sought and recorded
- review the risk assessment of the garden to include the trampoline

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