



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136408
Inspection date	20 December 2006
Inspector	Barbara Walters
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 1991. She lives with her husband and two adult children in the North Common area of Bristol. All areas of the house are used for childminding except the small bedroom. The children have access to outdoor play in the enclosed garden and the childminder also uses the local facilities including the park, toddler groups and soft play. The family have two pet cats.

The childminder is registered for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding five children on a part-time basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder liaises regularly with parents to ensure that the meals she provides are suitable for children's needs. Children enjoy nutritious, well presented home-cooked dinners which appeal to them and meet their dietary needs. They learn about healthy eating through encouragements to try new tastes at meal times and children begin to make good choices of the kind of snacks they eat. Meals are well balanced and take into account their preferences. Children are offered regular drinks throughout the day to maintain their health.

The childminder sustains a high level of hygiene to prevent the spread of infection. Procedures such as regular cleaning routines using anti-bacterial cleaner and regular cleaning of the toys limit the risk of cross contaminations. Children's bedding is changed on a daily basis. Children's understanding of health and hygiene practice is improved through the childminder's active promotion of good hygiene practices. Children are encouraged to develop good awareness of personal hygiene by regularly washing hands after messy activities and before food and using pump soap and paper towels. Children's well-being is promoted by the detailed and clear accident record and the records of administered medication.

Children benefit from a range of opportunities for play in the fresh air. They spend time in the garden and visit local facilities for regular exercise. Children's fitness levels are upheld through daily exercise, which promotes their physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy coming to the childminder's home where space is organised to reduce risks to children while allowing them to have freedom of movement and space for rest and activities. Children are able to select activities from a wide range of very safe and stimulating toys and play materials to promote development in children of all ages. The childminder very carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and regular visual checks on toys and equipment maintain a safe environment in which children can play.

Children's safety is managed extremely well by the childminder who takes well thought-out and robust measures to ensure risks are minimised. This includes the use of equipment within the home, such as cupboard locks and stair gates to restrict children's access to certain areas of home. Children play in an exemplary safe environment where fire safety issues have been addressed, such as practising an emergency evacuation procedure. Children develop their understanding of how to keep safe and learn the importance of road safety when out walking and suitable child seats when taking trips in the car. The childminder has a consistently high awareness of keeping children safe when outside and has developed robust measures to ensure they are fully protected. For example the childminder has devised emergency details about the children, including their photo, which is carried in the car and children wear the same tee-shirt on outings to make sure they do not become lost.

The childminder has a very good understanding of child protection. She makes sure that children are closely supervised at all times and never leaves them in the care of others. Children's welfare and safety is further promoted as the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection issues and takes appropriate action to protect children from the risk of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are enthusiastic in the childminder's care. They grow in confidence in a home where they feel welcome and part of the family. They are eager to explore what is on offer and delightfully take the initiative in their play. The childminder provides a good balance of home-based and community activities to promote the developmental needs of the children. Children enjoy daily outings such as visits to the toddler group and places of interest which help promote learning, stimulate their interest in the wider world and socialise with other children. Children benefit from the good range of toys, books and activities which provide stimulation and challenge for children. They concentrate well when developing new skills such as using the scissors and completing the puzzles. Children show an interest reading for pleasure and confidently choose a book for the childminder to read and listen well to the story.

The childminder interacts well with the children, joins in their play and praises them for their efforts, thus promoting their self-esteem. Children confidently use their language skills to communicate thoughts, feelings and needs to the children. Children are secure and well nurtured. The warm relationship with the childminder and other members of the family contributes to their sense of belonging.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder promotes inclusion and balances children's differing needs well so that all can participate in activities with enjoyment. The childminder develops her own insight on individual needs through observation and interaction with each child and has regular discussion with parents to provide continuity of care and to ensure children's individual needs are met. Children have access to a wide range of toys and equipment which promote diversity and give children positive role models of others. Children learn about their local community as they go on routine outings to the local toddler group and soft play groups with other children and childminders. The childminder has limited experience of minding a child with special needs although she would use her own understanding to ensure all children are included.

Children's behaviour is well managed. They enjoy a close relationship and benefit from the calm approach of the childminder, who uses praise and encouragement to help build children's self-esteem and manage behaviour. Children learn responsible behaviour, for example, by only walking in the house, sharing toys with other children and by being kind to the cats. The childminder works closely with parents following routines and sharing important information with them. The childminder's well thought-out policies and procedures provide information about her services enabling parents to be clear about what is available for their children. Daily discussion with parents regarding children's activities ensure that children feel secure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well supported by the childminder and they feel at home in the well organised environment. Good routines enable the childminder to provide a high level of support and to maximise the time she spends playing with the children. Available space is used effectively within the home for children's play and they enjoy regular access to the garden. The childminder has developed her own well thought-out policies and procedures which reflect her practice and are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children.

The childminder is committed to further training and development, using the knowledge gained to support children's learning. All relevant documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is accurate and up to date and shared with parents. However, children's welfare is not fully promoted as the childminder has not obtained written permission from parents to seek emergency advice or treatment. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain specific parental consent for swimming. This has been obtained.

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 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):

- request written permission from parents to seek emergency advice or treatment.

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