



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY221520
Inspection date	01 December 2006
Inspector	Kay Roberts
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 first registered in 2001 and works as a play leader at a Saturday Club. She is also involved in the Supported Daycare Scheme operated by Bristol City Council. She lives in a two bedroom, terrace house in St Pauls, Bristol. The home is within walking distance of St Barnabas and Cabot schools. All areas of the house are used for childminding, except for bedroom two. There is a fully enclosed garden suitable for outdoor play. There is one child in the family aged 15-years. Registration is for a maximum of four children under eight-years and currently there are four children on roll, all of whom are under five-years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean environment where their good health is actively promoted. The childminder follows hygienic procedures so children are protected from illness and infection. She holds a basic food hygiene training certificate and shares her sickness policy for excluding children who are ill with parents. Children demonstrate a good understanding of cleanliness and hygiene. They clean the toys with a wet wipe, place their hand over their mouth when coughing and wash their hands when they are dirty. Children know that if they do not keep things clean the germs will give them a "bad tummy". There are safe procedures for managing both accidents and medication so that children's wellbeing is promoted.

Children have daily opportunities to play outside. They are protected from the elements. In summer children have sun screen applied and play in the shade of the gazebo. In winter children are wrapped up warm and wear wellington boots. In the summer children are encouraged to play outdoors as the childminder organises all activities in the garden. Children have an opportunity to dig and plant. They use problem solving skills to create dens. Large muscle skills are developed as children jump from one tyre to another and ride bikes and scooters. There are regular visits to local parks where children extend their skills as they climb to the top of the climbing frame and the childminder's presence offers reassurance whilst they climb across the top. Indoor children continue to take exercise as they roll over a large ball and dance to music.

When thirsty, children help themselves to their beakers of drink. Parents are able to choose whether they provide packed lunches or alternatively if they would prefer the childminder to prepare a meal for their child. Children relax as they watch 'Dora the Explorer', a television programme which teaches young children Spanish, as they eat their lunch. They do not go hungry as the childminder offers a second helping. Children eat healthy snacks of fruit, toast or crackers and cheese. They begin to learn what food is healthy as the childminder explains eating a satsuma is good for a cold. Babies are emotionally secure as they feed themselves a bottle of milk whilst the childminder rocks them in the rocking chair. They are rocked to sleep, prior to being placed in a travel cot on the first floor, where they are able to sleep peacefully, undisturbed by their peers. As they get older children relax on the sofa and easy chairs in the lounge.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed as they receive a personal, warm welcome from the childminder. The home is decorated and maintained to a suitable standard throughout. The space available for play is maximised as furniture in the dining room and lounge are placed to the side of the room and children are able to move freely between the rooms. The main focus for play is in the dining room, whilst the lounge is predominantly used for quieter activities. Children sit on the magic carpet in the centre of the room and listen to stories. Children self select from the range of age appropriate, safe toys and are particularly keen to use some resources, such as the chalks in

the shape of children's television characters. Children benefit from having access to the back garden for outdoor play.

Children play in a safe, secure environment. The risk of children having an accident is minimised as potential hazards are placed out of children's reach and the childminder is vigilant. She helps young children to get on and off the dining chairs and when children use the rocking chair they are advised to be careful. Children learn to protect themselves. When they stretch forward across the table from the chairs the childminder asks children to consider what they are doing wrong, and when no response is received advises that they may fall and hurt themselves. In the event of a fire children know how to evacuate the premises safely as each month they practise the drill as they play 'Fireman Sam'. On outings, for which there is a safe procedure, children learn road safety. Children are further protected as the childminder is knowledgeable about local safeguarding procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and confident as the childminder responds to children's individual needs. They are social and enjoy each other's company. With encouragement from the childminder children develop good communication skills. As babies place the play fruit and food from one box into another the childminder names the fruit. At the beginning of the day children share their news. They are able to recall the previous day when they saw snow on Father Christmas' house. When looking at books the childminder helps babies to understand what it is about as she relates the pictures to the young child's own clothing and encourages them to feel the texture. Children show respect for books, and after use the pictures to retell the story. They are curious about written words and ask what the words say inside the mouth of the textured frog. As they listen to what the childminder says children learn the days of the week. As the childminder sings 'Row, row, row your boat' and then slightly lowers babies backwards, they laugh. Older children sing 'Tommy Thumb' to themselves. Children develop pencil control; young children use a wipe clean board. As children get older they use the easel and when they have finished independently wipe the board clean. Initially the childminder helps children to recognise letters by sounding the initial letter in their name and as they get older she praises their correct spelling of the word 'file' so they are keen to continue. Children enjoy music. They explore the musical instruments; the tambourine, recorder and clackers. They watch as the beads go from one end of the rain maker to the other and as they do so comment "it is raining". Children know their primary colours and without prompting count to eight as they jump back and forth across the plastic road map. Babies are alert to their senses and show some understanding of the world around them. When they hear the childminder's mobile telephone ring; they take the phone to her.

The childminder does not plan for specific needs, however, children make good progress as the childminder is alert to children's stage of development, and knows how to promote learning. The childminder follows through on children's interests. When young children point to some paper the childminder offers the paper and then allows them to choose which colour crayon they want. Learning is extended through first hand experience as children visit farms, parks and library.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children show respect for each other and have a positive attitude to difference as they learn from the childminder's example of quality care within an integrated setting. She values and includes all children and sensitively meets children's additional needs, of which she has much experience. Confidence is developed as children are praised for their achievements and each given individual time from the childminder. Children are very well behaved, polite and able to share. They help the childminder to tidy away toys they have finished playing with. An understanding of the local community is developed as children visit the local post office, shops and parks. Occasionally children watch a live performance of a favourite television show at the Bristol Hippodrome. A love of nature is fostered as children watch the squirrel and birds at the bird feeder. Older children use a reference book to identify the birds. They feed the ducks and swans at Castle Green and visit St Werburgh's City Farm.

Children are emotionally secure in the relaxed relationship between the childminder and their parents. Parents and children are invited to join the street parties to watch football and Disney shows. They are aware of the childminder's practices as they are able to view her policies and procedures. Parents receive daily verbal updates about their children. In addition, for those children placed under the supported day care scheme there are three monthly reviews of progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is appropriately qualified and keen to extend her practice and has undertaken further training on subjects such as basic food hygiene, sign language, child protection and craft. The clean, safe home environment is arranged so that children have space for relaxation, play and physical exercise. The childminder's good organisational skills and knowledge of child development allow her to offer children a high level of support so they make good progress. Documentation complies with the National Standards and regulatory requirements so that children's health, safety and welfare are actively promoted.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has made good progress against the two actions and two recommendations made at the last inspection. With regard to the actions children's safety is no longer compromised as the childminder now maintains an accurate register of attendance and has removing the shelving which was a potential hazard. One recommendation required the childminder to ensure she held a current paediatric first aid certificate, which she does, so children's welfare is promoted. The second requirement necessitated a written contract with parents setting out the expectations of both parties as to the care of the child and business arrangements, and these are now in place.

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):

- extend planning so that it takes into consideration the needs of each child.

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