



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY225693
Inspection date	23 October 2006
Inspector	Michelle Tuck

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 outstanding. 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 2002. She lives with her husband, two sons and daughter in a four bedroom detached house in a quiet residential area of Blackbrook, Taunton Somerset. She is registered to care for five children under the age of eight of whom three may be under five years. There are currently four children on roll.

Minded children have access to the whole of the house. A spacious ground floor offering kitchen, lounge, dining room, playroom and toilet facilities. Upstairs offering bedrooms for children to sleep. There is also a secure outdoor area to the rear of the house which is used for outdoor play.

The family have a pet Labrador dog and also have two pet budgies and some fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and physical development are promoted exceptionally well through excellent opportunities to enjoy highly interesting outdoor and indoor activities. Daily routines include visits to feed the ducks, playtime in the park, and regular visits to toddler groups and drop in centres, which contribute to their good health. Children's physical skills are well developed through their participation in interesting activities such as digging and planting in the garden and listening and dancing to music.

Children are learning to understand about healthy food, as the childminder has significant knowledge of nutrition and diet. Children help to plant and care for vegetables, which they pick when grown and eat. Children learn that they need to look after their bodies through exercise and eating good food. They learn about keeping healthy and the effects of germs. For example the childminder tells a child not to pick up some food she has dropped on the floor because it may have germs on it and get a 'poorly tummy' if she eats it. Children benefit from varied healthy and nutritious snacks, and lunches provided by the childminder and parents. Children are becoming increasingly aware of the way activities affects their bodies and know when they need a drink or a rest. Drinks are continually provided so children can easily access these when they wish.

Children are cared for in a warm clean environment where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They have a clear understanding of why they wash their hands before eating, and after using the toilet. The childminder acts as a good role model, for example she wipes the changing mat between nappy changes and provides the children with individual bedding to sleep in.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is given high priority, ensuring they remain safe and secure at all times. This is achieved through a combination of sensitive supervision and the provision of a safe environment. Precautions and levels of supervision are expertly adapted according to the ages and the needs of children attending. Measures in place include locks on cupboard doors and smoke detectors in every room. A comprehensive written risk assessment is carried out on the premises, to make sure safety is continually reviewed and monitored. Resources are positioned extremely well to ensure children can access them easily by themselves or with minimal adult support.

Children are safe and comfortable within the homely, well organised environment. Space is available to allow children to engage in an extensive range of activities. They move freely between the different areas, confident in the knowledge that the areas are safe for use.

Children are learning about safety and how to keep themselves safe. The childminder teaches the children simple boundaries and rules to ensure their safety is maintained. For example,

children understand what they need to do in the event of a fire, including escape routes and assembly points, because this is practised regularly. They understand the need to wear safety reins or a wrist strap when on outings, to keep themselves safe.

The childminder has excellent knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures which supports her in her role of keeping children safe.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's home. They are extremely confident and relate well to the childminder. Children become independent as they choose from a wide range of toys and activities. They enjoy and participate in a variety of exciting and interesting planned activities that are highly stimulating and challenging. Children have exceptional opportunities to explore and investigate in daily hands on activities, such as, planting sunflower seeds, which offers valuable learning experiences about the world they live in. Children thrive in an interesting and rich environment where their interests are nurtured. For example, after a walk to collect leaves and sticks they participate in making leaf prints and stick men. The childminder counts the stairs with children as they go upstairs to sleep, she points out and names body parts on a child's body as she shares a book with her about the body.

Children are achieving well because the childminder is highly skilled and very committed and enthusiastic. She has a thorough understanding of child development and the framework for Birth to three matters. The childminder interacts well with the children, she spends her time fully engrossed with them, playing and talking and often asking questions or making suggestions, which effectively supports and extends their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are considered as individuals and treated with equal concern. Equal opportunities are actively promoted by the childminder, who practices anti-discriminatory practice for all children. Equality is taught through a broad range of activities on offer, for example, all toys and resources are within children's reach, so they are able to access whatever they wish. There is an excellent range of books to choose from, which encourage children's understanding of their own lives and others. All children are valued and their individuality is acknowledged. For example, activities are adapted to suit a child, so they are able to take part in all available play.

Children's behaviour is very good, as they learn in a happy and secure environment. Their needs are fully met, as the childminder has extensive knowledge about child development, and provides purposeful activities, to help children learn and progress. For example, musical instruments are provided for all children because a child has a particular interest in music and dancing. Children are confident and enjoy their play, joining in happily with the activities on offer. Children learn to treat each other with respect, as the childminder leads by excellent example.

Partnership with parents are outstanding. A comprehensive folder is provided for each parent, informing them about all the policies, procedures, which are written with parental wishes in

mind, for example, a behaviour policy, so consistency of care is ensured. Each child has a folder containing photographs of themselves participating in activities and samples of things they have made. These are shared with parents. Written contracts are completed and updated regularly, so there is no misunderstanding. The childminder and parent have daily discussions about the routine of the day, what children have participated in. The childminder is a valuable support to parents, when an individual need is identified, and a trusting partnership is formed to benefit the child.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

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

Children are extremely happy and very settled within the childminder's home. They benefit from a highly committed and enthusiastic childminder, which enhances their care and development. Children experience an exceptionally varied and interesting routine and they are motivated, eager and enthused within the provision. Children are able to select individually from a wide range of good quality toys and equipment as well as engrossing themselves in exciting well-planned activities. Children are significantly supported by a childminder who works extremely well along side them; she is highly skilled in her interaction to extend their learning, and extremely caring in her approach.

Children's welfare, care and learning is excellently promoted through highly effective, professional and comprehensive policies and procedures.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to make sure appropriate vehicle insurance cover is in place. Business cover is included on the car, and the certificate available at inspection.

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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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