



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY338923
Inspection date	07 December 2006
Inspector	Rachael Williams
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 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged over eight years. They live in a house in the grounds of RAF Locking near Weston-Super-Mare. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding which includes kitchen, lounge/dining room and cloakroom, as well as the bathroom and main bedroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The premises are close to local amenities including three parks. The childminder regularly takes and collects from the local primary school.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. At present, she has six children on roll. The family care for two dogs, a hamster and a budgerigar.

The childminder is supported by a 'buddy' childminder and the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

There are procedures in place to ensure children's health and well-being are well promoted. However, children do not consistently wash their hands before eating and they share a towel to dry their hands which does not sufficiently protect them from the spread of infection. Arrangements for handling and feeding the pets maintains a hygienic environment for the children. For example, the dogs have a separate, enclosed kennel area where they are fed which ensures that children are protected from illness or infection. The childminder is aware of children's allergies and ensures the premises are clean and that contact with the dogs is limited.

Children are well protected as the childminder has attended an appropriate first aid course and maintains a fully stocked first aid box. Medication and accident records are correctly completed and shared with parents to maintain children's well-being. Children benefit from regular opportunities to be active through walking to school and regular visits to the park and open parkland nearby. The garden is well equipped to promote children's physical development for instance, through the use of ride-on toys. Children benefit from a range of healthy and nutritious snacks and meals provided by the childminder. She has good awareness of children's special dietary needs from regular communication with the parents.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's good understanding and knowledge of procedures ensures that children are safe and protected from harm. For example, an appropriate fire evacuation plan has been established, although it has not been practised with all of the children. Children are closely supervised by the vigilant childminder who actively ensures children are protected from potential risks and hazards. She has established effective risk assessments to ensure children are protected when in the garden, from both the dogs and the pond. Children benefit from a secure environment and effective collection arrangements have been established to maintain children's safety. For example, the childminder would ensure that she was aware of who was collecting and request photo identification and a password to ensure children were collected by suitable adults.

Children benefit from a clean and well maintained environment where they are able to move freely and safely. Children have independent access to a variety of well-stocked units where there is an abundant range of safe and developmentally appropriate toys and resources.

Children's well-being is safeguarded as the childminder has good knowledge of child protection issues through attendance at a relevant course. She is aware of the possible signs of abuse or neglect and would act on them promptly following appropriate procedures in order to protect children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settled as they receive very good support from the childminder. For example, the childminder has good knowledge of children's interests and ensures that colouring activities are available for children attending before school. She communicates well with the children offering continuous encouragement to further develop their skills. Children benefit from close relationships with the childminder. For example, the children cuddle up close to share the story and to match the magnetic words.

The childminder provides a good range of interesting and stimulating activities to encourage children to achieve in all areas of their learning. The environment is well organised with an abundant range of resources, which are easily accessible and readily available. Children's achievements are recorded well, for instance, through their project file to share with parents. A monthly planner is used to provide a range of experiences such as, Halloween activities and a visit to Court Farm. Children are involved in a range of activities to encourage their exploration such as, making pastry hedgehogs and enjoying going on nature walks where they observe the life cycle of a frog and collect acorns.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and confident within a homely environment. Close relationships have been established and the childminder has good knowledge of the children and family backgrounds to ensure their needs are met as she has established a profile of each child, '10 fascinating facts about...'. However, there are few resources to support children's cultural and religious differences. The childminder is confident to care for children with special needs ensuring that activities and the premises are adapted to ensure all are included. Children behave very well and through praise and respect, have good self-esteem. A good range of appropriate strategies are used to manage behaviour such as, clear explanations as to why toys must not be thrown across the room. Children are clear on boundaries, for example, not being allowed to climb on the furniture and how they must be seated when they are eating.

Parents receive good information on the childminder's good practices and routines. There is a daily exchange of information, both through discussions and the use of a diary for younger children. Relevant policies and procedures are shared with parents to ensure continuity of care for the children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a professional and caring childminder who is proactive in improving her knowledge of how children develop, for instance, through attendance at a Birth to three matters framework course. Children benefit from a well-organised setting which encourages them to be independent, safe and healthy learners. Space and the local environment are used

creatively to provide a variety of experiences which enable children to move freely and confidently.

Children are closely supervised by a vigilant childminder. Through the use of an accurate daily attendance record appropriate ratios are maintained to positively support children's well-being. All regulatory documentation, such as, a complaints log and well-written policies and procedures have been established to support the good childminding practices. The childminder shares documentation in confidence with parents. All records are stored securely to ensure children's well-being is safeguarded.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 complaint 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):

- develop further hygienic hand washing arrangements
- improve resources to support children's understanding of the diversity in our society

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