



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY342589
Inspection date	14 March 2007
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 in their family home in Bridgwater, Somerset. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding which includes a dedicated play room, dining room, lounge, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed patio area for outside play. The premises are close to amenities including the local park and primary schools.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. At present, she has three children under eight years old on roll. She also cares for children over eight years old.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from good, hygienic practices, for instance shoes are removed on entry to the family home which ensures a clean and well maintained environment. Hygienic nappy changing and hand washing arrangements have been effectively established.

Children are protected and remain healthy as the childminder has good knowledge of first aid. She maintains a fully stocked first aid box and obtains appropriate consents to further protect children. Accidents are effectively recorded and monitored to ensure continuity in care. The childminder exhibits good knowledge of recording the administration of medication, although no entries observed.

Children benefit from a healthy lifestyle. They have regular opportunities to be outside in the fresh air as they walk to and from school. Physical skills are further developed through regular visits to the park where they can climb, balance and slide. Younger children's mobility is fully encouraged through appropriate play opportunities, such as rolling the ball to the childminder and being encouraged to reach for it on it's return. Children are offered drinks regularly and older ones may access them independently. The childminder gives parents and children clear information on healthy eating, for instance through posters. Children enjoy healthy and nutritious snacks and home made meals, such as cottage pie and vegetables which are prepared in a hygienic kitchen. Children are encouraged to be involved in establishing nutritious menus as they have a free choice on a Thursday evening.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a warm and welcoming family home. The environment is spacious and well organised to accommodate children's needs enabling them to move safely and freely. The dedicated playroom stores a good range of toys and resources which are easily accessible to the children. Toys are effectively rotated to provide children with different experiences.

Children's well-being is effectively safeguarded as the childminder has good knowledge of child protection issues. She is aware of the possible signs of abuse or neglect, such as a change of personality or unexplained marks. She is aware of the procedure to follow and has relevant literature readily available to support her good knowledge and understanding to fully protect children.

Children are cared for by a vigilant childminder who is aware of safety issues and takes every step to reduce risks, such as ensuring cupboards in the kitchen are locked and the appropriate use of stair gates to prevent access to the first-floor. Children are well protected in an emergency as the childminder has a written a fire evacuation plan that she has practised with the children thus developing their understanding of how to keep safe. Children benefit from a secure environment as the rear garden is fully enclosed and the front door is consistently locked and

keys removed. Children are well protected as clear collection arrangements ensure children go home with suitable adults.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has good knowledge of children's needs and plans a range of activities to support their interests. She is flexible in her planning to accommodate the children's need to relax or to be more active after-school. Good relationships have been established and the childminder listens and responds to children's experiences, for instance discussing a range of recent accidents. Children are able to access age and developmentally appropriate resources independently from the dedicated playroom which stimulate and challenge their learning.

After-school children enjoy decorating a flower pot for Mother's Day and engaging in games to stimulate their physical skills, such as a throwing/aiming game where children are encouraged to keep score and compare totals. The children enjoy playing cooperatively with board games, such as Screwball Scramble. The childminder encourages children to make decisions about their play and listens to their suggestions, for example making Mother's Day cards. The childminder is developing her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and uses some ideas from the guidance to support younger children, such as constructing towers for younger children to knock down and exploring sound through the use of instruments.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a warm, homely environment. Good relationships have been established and children are encouraged to be sociable, for instance they all sit together for their evening meal. The childminder ensures she is well-informed of children's individual needs which are recorded and updated regularly to ensure continuity in care. The local environment is used well to promote children's understanding of the community. There are some resources available to reflect the diversity in our society, such as card games and books. However, there are few to positively represent disability. The childminder feels confident to identify and assess learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She would adapt her provision to ensure all children are included through effective liaison with parents and outside agencies.

Children behave well as they are clear on expectations and boundaries, for instance 'House Rules' have been established and shared with parents and children. The childminder uses appropriate strategies to manage behaviour, such as distraction, timeout and clear explanations.

Parents are well-informed about childminding practices to ensure continuity in care for the children. An appropriate complaints log has been established and the childminder shows good understanding of the complaints procedure. There is a regular exchange of information to ensure the childminder is aware of routines, such as sleeping arrangements, and that parents are well-informed of children's achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a friendly and approachable childminder. Good use is made of the space which is well-organised to encourage children to be independent, safe and healthy learners. The register positively supports children's well-being as accurate times of attendance are recorded. Children are closely supervised and ratios are maintained.

Records are suitably completed and shared with parents to maintain health and safety. The childminder has good understanding of maintaining confidentiality. Records and documentation are stored appropriately for easy access.

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):

- extend resources to reflect the diversity in our society, in particular those to reflect disability

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