



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	151314
Inspection date	09 January 2007
Inspector	Christine Slaney
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 1999. She currently cares for two children under eight years, full time. She lives in a three bed room semi-detached house in Paignton, in Devon, with her husband and two children who are aged over eight years. The only family pet is a dog, to which minded children have limited access. There is a secure garden to the rear of the property for outside play. There is also easy access to shops, parks, schools and pre-schools.

The childminder has completed the Devon Childminding Association's Foundation Course, has suitable first aid training and has recently completed her NVQ level 4 in Childcare and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

An excellent range of nutritionally balanced snacks and meals are provided during the day. This is because the childminder works closely with parents to promote healthy eating. Meals when served are taken from lunch boxes and are then well presented. Children thoroughly enjoy their lunch, which is seen as a sociable time. The food is varied and meets the children's specific dietary requirements. Fresh produce, such as vegetables and fruit, is offered daily. In addition children have very good opportunities through planned activities to cook, taste and try new foods. Drinking water is always available.

Children's hygiene is effectively promoted by the childminder, who makes sure that children learn to protect themselves from infection when toileting, for example young children are encouraged, with support, to wash and dry their own hands. This ensures that from a young age children are developing an understanding of the importance of keeping themselves free from infection. Children get plenty of exercise through regular trips to the park and local amenities, and through regular use of suitable outdoor play resources in the safe and secure garden. The childminder is effectively developing a very good knowledge and understanding of the Birth to three matters framework, which ensures children have opportunities to physically develop through appropriately challenging activities.

Children's health needs are very effectively supported and monitored. This is because the documentation systems are clear and thorough and parents are fully informed about any accidents and the administration of medicines or first aid.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a very welcoming and clean environment. There are many examples of their own work displayed, alongside posters, which reflect the children's backgrounds and the wider community. In addition children move freely and safely. As a result they develop a strong sense of belonging and feel safe and secure. Their individuality is reflected through the use of a lovely folder, which includes photographs of recent activities they have been involved in, like cooking and playing in the garden. Children mainly use the dining room, which, although it is still in use as a family dining room, has been extremely well organised to promote children's natural curiosity. They thoroughly enjoy role play in the toy kitchen area, for example, making pretend cups of tea and coffee which they hand out asking if it is "ok?".

Children are actively developing an awareness of their own safety because they are encouraged to put away toys they are playing with before they get other toys out or eat their lunch. They play with a large range of good quality toys and resources that are age appropriate and regularly cleaned.

Children's welfare is thoroughly safeguarded and promoted while in the childminder's care. This is because she has an excellent understanding of the issues surrounding child protection. A clearly written statement about child protection is also shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy a calm environment where they can thrive. They settle very quickly to play, are happy, relaxed and very confident. Young children are developing good concentration levels, because the childminder uses her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework with good effect to plan and provide a varied, interesting and purposeful range of activities. This enables the children to explore and create using all of their senses. For example, children use their developing knowledge and understanding of their own world, as they become engrossed in making pretend cups of tea and coffee for adults present. They are encouraged to develop mathematical skills through practical and meaningful activities, like counting toys as they put them away in boxes. As a result children are developing an interest in counting and numbers. The childminder makes regular ongoing observations of children. This information is then used to further develop their own interests. In addition, parents are also informed about what the children have been doing throughout the day and how they can continue to develop this at home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children truly benefit from their time with the childminder who is committed to providing high quality care. She regularly undertakes training to increase and extend her knowledge and understanding of children and how they learn. This commitment ensures that each child is valued and respected.

Routines are consistent, but flexible, and include regular meal and rest times. Children's sense of belonging is enhanced as they make their own decisions regarding activities, freely accessing an excellent range of activities. Children's own personal folders include photographs depicting the children enjoying and joining in with activities. They take part in many activities, including playing in the garden and learning about how things grow.

Children behave extremely well due to the positive strategies used. Children learn to respect others and their property, as the childminder role-models social skills and routines, such as tidying away toys. Gentle reminders, like sitting nicely at the table during lunch time, are used to ensure this is a social occasion.

Children are encouraged to have respect for and awareness of difference and diversity through planned activities that introduce children in positive ways to disability and other cultures and beliefs. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities would receive effective support, as the childminder's practice is underpinned by her secure knowledge of inclusion and awareness of the importance of working closely with outside agencies.

Parents and the childminder work closely together to ensure children's care needs are fully met. For example, there are comprehensive policies and procedures and parents are given a useful leaflet about the childminder's business. Furthermore parents have many opportunities to discuss their children's progress, both formally through a parental survey and informally at the beginning and end of the day. In addition, ideas to aid their children's development at home are incorporated in regular newsletters.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children enjoy high quality care as the childminder organises her home, her resources, and her own time effectively, so that she is fully available to support children while they are in her care. Furthermore, she has a very good understanding of the regulatory requirements within which she operates. This means all legally required documentation, which contributes to children's health and safety, are in place and are easy to access. For instance, registers record children's actual times of arrival and departure and there are relevant procedures in place, like fire safety procedures, medication and accident forms.

Children's enjoyment is further enhanced as the childminder enthusiastically pursues her own professional development through training and self-initiated study, such as a National Vocational Qualification at level 4 in Childcare and Education.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was requested to set up a system ready for recording the administering of any medication. This is now in place and ensures children's health needs are supported because there are good systems in place to respond appropriately. The childminder was also requested to ensure that resources reflect positive images of cultural and social diversity. There are resources in place and children have opportunities to develop an understanding of diversity through planned activities.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection 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