



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118364
Inspection date	23 May 2005
Inspector	Nigel Lindsay Smith

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 1985. She lives with her husband, two adult children and one child aged fifteen years in Clevedon, North Somerset.

The whole of the ground floor and two first floor bedrooms are used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered for six children. She is currently minding thirteen children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. She takes children for walks to the beach, woods and river bank, to toddler groups and to meet with other childminders.

The family has two dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children develop a good awareness of health and hygiene through established routines such as regularly washing their hands. If children become ill or have an accident there are appropriate arrangements in place to take action.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They are given choices for a light lunch; at inspection the child present enjoyed making their own sandwich. They have snacks at other times, including when arriving after school, and if parents wish their child can have a cooked meal at tea-time.

Children have a wide range of opportunities to develop physically and to benefit from fresh air. They walk regularly and play in parks and on the beach. Babies are appropriately given space and encouragement to exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through the childminder's good understanding of risk. They are protected by the provision of appropriate safety features, such as locking windows. Children learn to be independent, for instance by taking themselves to the toilet, while being protected from risk, such as when the childminder is cooking. The childminder has a good awareness of local child protection procedures; children are, therefore, well-protected.

Children enjoy a welcoming atmosphere in the areas of the house used for childminding. There is a good range of equipment to cater for the differing age groups looked after. The childminder ensures that she has selected a variety of items for children to choose from.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well and confidently choose equipment and activities. They experience a variety of outings in the local area, so that they increase their knowledge of the community outside. They increase their social skills with other children and adults through attending toddler groups. Indoors they concentrate well on craft activities and are proud of achieving. Older children benefit from being involved in planning and preparation, for instance by buying ingredients for a cooking activity.

Children are encouraged well by the childminder, who asks appropriate questions to

help their exploration. Babies develop their sensory experiences through access to a good range of equipment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider world by using a variety of resources which reflect diversity, such as multi-cultural figures and books. The childminder does not have experience of minding children with special needs but she has given thought to how she would include them in the activities.

Children are happy and interact well with adults, for instance telling the inspector what they liked best about their time with the childminder. The childminder manages children's behaviour well; she is calm and helpful, and clear about her expectation of good manners. As a result children benefit from playing and learning in a constructive atmosphere.

Children are helped to integrate with the other children when they start with the childminder. The childminder shares her observations and information with parents about their children so that they can work together to help the children make progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the organisation of the setting; they confidently select resources from well-organised materials, although they are not labelled, which would further help children in making their choices.

The required documentation is accurately maintained; this ensures that children's health and safety is promoted. Adults living in the household have completed the required vetting process.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has improved her arrangements regarding emergency medical treatment. Parents are now asked to give written permission to allow her to implement this if necessary. This contributes towards the safety of children in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- consider labelling play equipment to further facilitate choices for children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk