

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142343
Inspection date	24 April 2007
Inspector	Jennifer Barton

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 has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband and two primary school aged children in a semi-detached house in the town of Street in Somerset.

Children have access to the ground floor of the premises which consists of a lounge, kitchen and conservatory and on the first floor, children are able to access the bathroom. There is a large fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five minded children under the age of eight years and at present is currently minding seven children on a part time basis. The family have a pet bird.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, the local Childminding Network and receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a healthy and clean environment. Children frequently participate in physical activities both indoors and outdoors. They regularly play in the garden and visit the park which ensures access to plenty of fresh air and contributes to their good health. Children access a variety of equipment, such as climbing frame, trampoline and bats and balls to exercise and develop healthy bodies. Children benefit from a childminder who has a good understanding of the harmful effects of the sun and protects children well by using a gazebo in the garden and using protective sun screen, with written consent from parents.

At present, the childminder does not provide meals or snacks for children as parents supply them. However, she has a very good understanding of healthy eating through attending workshops and courses. She supports parent's understanding of healthy eating through discussion and sharing leaflets and information. Children are encouraged to try healthy fruits when they attend a local childminding network 'Fruity Fridays' session. Children are provided with regular drinks and are learning to be aware of their own individual needs as they are able to access drinks when they are thirsty.

Children learn good health and hygienic procedures through good routines, such as using wet wipes or washing hands before handling food or after visits to the toilet. Children have access to liquid antibacterial soap and use individual towels to prevent cross contamination. Children's well-being is protected through a childminder who has appropriate first aid skills and accident and medication records in place. The childminder has written consent from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment to be able to act in the best interest of the child.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in an environment where risks are identified and effectively minimised, such as using stair gates and locks on kitchen cupboards. Appropriate door safety and a safe enclosed rear garden ensures children cannot leave the premises unsupervised. The childminder's risk assessment is ongoing. She considers the age and ability of children to ensure suitable toys and equipment are available or appropriately organised, such as small construction is not accessible to babies and young children. When toys and equipment are used they are checked for safety and are regularly maintained. There are good procedures for outings and using vehicles, such as taking mobiles and first aid kits, and using appropriate car seats and pushchairs, to ensure children's safety is promoted.

Children experience a warm and welcoming environment where space and storage is effective to support children's safety in moving around the home. Children have easy access to a wide range of suitable toys and equipment both inside and outside to enable them to play safely.

Children are well protected from harm through the childminder's good understanding and knowledge of child protection. Children benefit from a childminder who has attended child protection training and has a good awareness of different kinds of abuse and appropriate systems for recording concerns. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe in the event of fire. The childminder discusses evacuation procedures with children and they are aware of

how to exit the premises and where the meeting points are. The childminder has appropriately located smoke detectors and fire blanket to support children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's home. The childminder has good routines and organises her care and learning through every day situations. The childminder has a good understanding of the framework for Birth to three matters and the Foundation Stage curriculum for children's appropriate development. The childminder is flexible in her organisation and is able to provide for children's individual needs and interests. Children have daily free play activities and some planned activities, although, some planned activities lack exploration and are not challenging enough for all children. Children are becoming independent and confident as they are able to choose from a wide range of toys and resources. Small children enjoy sharing books with the childminder which supports their speech development as they enjoy saying the sounds of the animals, such as 'woof' for the dog. Children are encouraged to use the garden for planting watercress seeds and bedding plants, and then to care for them by watering and observing their growth.

The childminder provides art and craft activities for children. They participate in making collages of trees using their own hand prints. Children also have access to a wide range of resources for encouraging their own creativity and imagination in craft. Children enjoy using construction toys to also develop their imagination as they build houses with 'duplo'.

The childminder encourages children to develop their social skills as they regularly attend childminding network groups and carer and toddler groups. Children are learning to share and take turns in their play, such as when they play in the sand pit or with the 'Bratz dolls'. Children are happy listening to music and using musical instruments in rhythm to the beat.

Children are able to relax participating in quiet activities, such as watching television, reading, using the computer or electronic games following their time at pre-school or school. The childminder encourages children to use the library and during school holidays they participate in reading schemes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals. The childminder has experience of working with children with learning difficulties and disabilities. She has undertaken numerous courses, such as inclusion, equal opportunities and total communication to be able to support all children's varying needs. Children are learning about diversity through accessing a wide range of resources that reflect a positive image of culture and disability, such as books, dolls, construction and puzzles. All children participate in activities suitable for their age and ability.

Children behave well, they benefit from good daily routines and know what is expected of them. The childminder has good strategies to promote good behaviour. She frequently praises and encourages children and is calm and gentle as she reinforces simple rules, such as not jumping on furniture.

Children benefit from good relationships between parents and the childminder which enhances their care. The childminder has a well organised file containing details of herself and the

provision, such as qualification certificates, photographs, policies, documents and paperwork which she shares with parents. Written permission is obtained from parents for transporting children in vehicles, outings and using sunscreen to ensure she meets the wishes of parents. The childminder shares information in general, regarding the welfare of children, such as details on food and diet. Parents are informed about children's activities through daily verbal discussions but no written systems are in place to record and share children's progress and development.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed and at home in the childminder's environment. Children experience a good daily routine within an environment that is warm and welcoming. Space and rooms are used well and children are able to make choices and select resources for their play. Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment both indoors and outdoors. Children feel secure as they frequently have individual attention. Children benefit from a childminder who is committed and keen to support children's development. Since the last inspection she has attended numerous training courses, such as Foundation Stage and framework for Birth to three matter's, creative play development, disability awareness and outdoor provision. The childminder is a member of the local childminding network which supports her continuing improvement.

Children's care, welfare and learning is promoted effectively through a well organised childminder. Good documentation, policies and most procedures ensure the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to obtain written consent from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment for their children. The childminder now has written permission which enables her to support and act in the best interest of the child.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 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

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 more play activities for children to develop their exploration skills
- further develop procedures for informing parents of their children's progress and development.

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