

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118384
Inspection date	10 May 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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her husband and two children. They live in a house in the Clevedon area of North Somerset. There are a few local shops, a park and a pre-school within walking distance. Minded children have access to the ground floor of the family home, which includes the conservatory, kitchen, dining room, lounge and cloakroom, and to the first-floor bathroom and main bedroom which is used for sleeping. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years old. At present, she cares for four children.

The family care for a dog and three house cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

There are good arrangements in place to ensure children are cared for in a clean and well maintained family home. For example, there are very good and hygienic arrangements in place to ensure children are protected and well supervised when handling the pets. For instance, access to the dog is prevented through the use of a gate and the cat's litter trays are inaccessible to the children.

Some daily hygienic routines encourage children's well-being. For example, children are aware of washing their hands before they eat their snack and older children are aware why the childminder washes her hands before she prepares their fruit. However, two of the minded children share a communal towel when they visit the upstairs bathroom. Children benefit from healthy and nutritious snacks and meals, such as banana and raisins. Lunch, supplied by parents, is stored appropriately, for example perishable items are stored in the fridge. Drinks are readily available in the kitchen for children to access independently.

Children are fully protected in the event of an accident as the childminder has appropriate first aid training and maintains a fully stocked first aid box to administer care to the children. Appropriate consents are gained, for instance to seek emergency treatment or advice. The childminder has appropriate arrangements in place to administer and record medication if such an instance should occur.

Children have regular opportunities to be active and to have fresh air experiences. For example, children have daily walks to the park, to feed the ducks and to explore the beach and pier.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder has created a well-organised, homely environment which ensures children are safe within the spacious premises. An abundant range of safe and secure toys and resources are readily available. Items are in good condition and provide children with a balanced range of experiences.

The childminder is vigilant about children's safety and ensures potential hazards are identified and prompt action taken to eliminate risks to the children. Security is paramount and the childminder ensures that the main doors are locked. She ensures children are supervised at all times, especially when visiting public places and going on outings with unscreened adults. There are clear collection arrangements to ensure children's safety as suitable adults have been met. Children are protected in an emergency as a 'buddy system' has been established with another childminder and parents are given clear information.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has good knowledge of child protection issues. She has attended relevant training to enhance her knowledge, however new guidance from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board has yet to be obtained.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to a wealth of appropriate resources, according to their age and stage of development. Toys and resources are rotated throughout the day according to children's interests. The childminder has good knowledge of children's needs and interests and provides children with individual attention. For example, whilst a younger child sleeps an older child is offered more challenging activities with individual support.

The children thoroughly enjoy the various experiences that are provided and achieve well through good interaction from the childminder. For example, whilst role-playing with the kitchen the childminder guides their play, for instance suggesting they lay the table, and asks relevant question is to encourage them to problem solve, such as how many more plates do you need? The childminder is confident to observe children in their play and encourages them to persevere with activities, such as threading to develop fine muscle skills.

Good relationships have been established and children confidently cuddle up close to share a story. The childminder confidently asks questions to encourage children's observational skills, such as can you find a policeman in the middle of the road directing traffic? The children are consistently praised for their achievements, for instance when completing a jigsaw.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled within the caring environment. Good relationships have been established as the childminder has good understanding of children's interests and abilities. Social skills are, as are communication skills, promoted well through regular dialogue and good interaction with the childminder and other adults and children. Children are extending their knowledge and understanding of the natural world and their local community through regular visits, such as to the garden centre and nearby shops. Children have access to an appropriate range of resources to promote their understanding of the diversity in our society, although resources that positively reflect disability are limited. Although the childminder has not cared for children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities she is confident in her ability to adapt her provision and liaise with parents to provide a supportive environment for their children.

The childminder uses positive approaches to manage behaviour and gives clear information to the parents. Appropriate strategies are used, such as clear explanations, eye contact, removal from the situation and reasoning. The childminder is aware of ensuring behaviour incidents are recorded and shared appropriately with parents. Children are regularly praised, both verbally and through the use of a sticker reward system.

Flexible arrangements ensure that children's and parent's needs are effectively met. Parents are well-informed of the good childminding practices through an informative portfolio. Good relationships with parents ensures that they are fully informed of their child's progress and development, for instance through the use of a daily diary. The childminder is aware of recording any complaints but, as yet, has not established a complaint log to share with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a well-trained and experienced childminder. She is proactive in accessing relevant training, such as Birth to three matters guidance, child protection and paediatric first aid. Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation of space and resources. The local environment is used well to provide children with additional experiences, such as visits to the shops and park to encourage their understanding of the community. Children are closely supervised and ratios are maintained. However, the daily record does not consistently record accurate times of children's attendance.

Records are easily accessible, securely stored and confidentially maintained. Most regulatory documentation has been established which underpins the childminder's good practices.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were raised relating to equal opportunities, health and behaviour. Most of these have been satisfactorily addressed.

The childminder has yet to sufficiently extend her resources to positively reflect disability which does not fully support children's understanding of the diversity in our society.

The childminder is aware of confidentially recording medication and gaining signatures from parents when medication has been administered to ensure children's well being.

The childminder is aware of recording existing injuries to ensure children's well being is safeguarded.

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 the daily record to accurately record children's hours of attendance
- ensure a record of all complaints is maintained and appropriate information from that record is shared with the parents on request

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