

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY277593
<b>Inspection date</b>	29 May 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Deborah Jane Starr

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 satisfactory. 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 January 2004. She co-minds jointly with her daughter. The childminder lives with her husband and one adult child in Sea Mills, Bristol. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have pet tortoises.

The childminder is registered to care for maximum of five children at any one time when working alone and up to eight children when working with her co-minder. She is currently caring for nine children under five years. Children attend on a part-time and full-time basis.

The childminder takes children to toddler groups, parks and local places of interest.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is effectively promoted. Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene through well-established daily routines. Children understand when and why they wash

their hands and spontaneously do so after using the toilet, before meals and after messy and garden play. Disposable wipes are used with younger children before meals. The childminder has effective systems in place to prevent the spread of illness such as appropriate procedures if children are unwell and thorough procedures for nappy changing and cleaning routines to minimise the risk of cross infection. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and provides appropriate care if a child has an accident. Procedures for the administering of medication and recording of accidents are appropriate.

Children's understanding of healthy choices and well-balanced meals is promoted through snacks of fresh fruit, bread sticks, organic fruit bars and occasional biscuits. Cookery activities promote children's understanding further. Parents provide their own child's meals; these are stored appropriately and heated through as required. Children's dietary needs are identified and discussed with parents. Drinks are accessible throughout the day and offered regularly.

Children develop a positive attitude to exercise and have lots of opportunities to develop a varied range of physical movements that promote control and co-ordination. Frequent use is made of the garden, alongside trips to the park and walks to local woods; all of which offer plenty of opportunities for fresh air. Children enjoy playing outside; younger children are supported appropriately whilst bouncing on a low-level trampoline, whilst older children manoeuvre trikes, cars and sit and ride toys. They develop throwing and hitting skills using bats and balls, practise climbing steps in the garden and on a low-level slide and balance on a see-saw. Children sleep and rest comfortably in cots and buggies according to their needs.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes positive steps to promote safety. Children have plenty of space for self-selected and group activities. There is good storage space for equipment. Children play with an extensive range of high quality toys and equipment that are regularly checked, age-appropriate and meets their developmental needs. Daily visual checks and an on-going risk assessment ensures that children have a safe and secure indoor and outdoor environment to play and explore. For instance, hooks have recently been attached to doors to ensure that they are secure when open. Children learn to keep themselves safe as they are provided with clear explanations about safety issues within the home and outside. Children are guided to climb steps appropriately in the garden and practise evacuation procedures. The childminder raises their awareness of road safety when on walks and young children wear reins or wrist straps. Children play within close proximity to the childminder when playing in the park and tags attached to their clothing contains the childminder's contact details.

Policies and procedures that ensure children's welfare is protected are in place, such as the collection of children by authorised persons. However, although most documentation is appropriate written parental permission to transport children in a vehicle has not been obtained; consequently, children's safety is not fully safeguarded. The childminder's good understanding and working knowledge of child protection issues and local reporting procedures to be followed protects children from harm. Discussion with parents informs them of her responsibilities.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settle quickly on arrival in the childminder's home. The positive relationship between the childminder and children promotes their self-confidence and enables

them to develop positive relationships with others and try out new experiences. For instance children talk about what they are making with unfamiliar adults such as the visiting inspector, whilst younger children make good eye-contact with adults and are encouraged to explore the sounds of new musical instruments.

The childminder's flexible approach to the day, ensures children participate in a varied and interesting range of activities that are appropriate to their stage of development. Young children eagerly explore brightly coloured and textured toys made predominantly of natural and wooden materials. They beam with delight as they press buttons on a xylophone and create sounds. Older children are encouraged to observe and care for living things around them. They paint pictures of the family tortoise using their hands and an assortment of brushes and help feed them when necessary. A garden wall in-laid with fossils offers opportunities for touch and to develop children's understanding of the world. Children enjoy craft activities, becoming quickly absorbed. They make crowns from a varied range of materials and chatter about what they are doing. Children are very sociable and play co-operatively together. Many activities in which children participate arise from their own interests. For example, they paint large crocodiles after singing a popular nursery rhyme and create decorated jewellery boxes using sea-shells.

Weekly visits to a toddler group and social gatherings with other childminder's extend children's social skills. Regular trips to the local woods, zoo, Blaize Castle and trips on a train extend children's understanding of their local community and the world around them

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are clearly identified, taken account of and met. This is achieved through frequent discussions with parents and the adaptation of activities that ensures all children are included. The childminder has a positive approach and is experienced in caring for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. Children's well-being and sense of security is supported through effective settling-in procedures, consistency with routines at home and use of comforters. Activities focussed on festivals that reflect the varied cultural backgrounds of the children attending, help them develop an understanding of the diversity the wider world. Resources such as dolls, finger puppets and books reflect positive images.

Regular praise and encouragement as children play together and share toys promotes their self-esteem and sense of well-being. Young children enjoy cuddles and beam with delight when sitting on the childminder's lap. The childminder's calm, caring and consistent approach and use of age-appropriate strategies helps children understand what is expected of them. Children's behaviour is good. They are encouraged to be respectful to others and use 'please' and 'thank-you'.

Children benefit from the positive relationship between parents and the childminder. An information folder including written policies and procedures, daily discussion and a daily diary for some children informs parents of most of the childminder's policies and procedures and their child's daily experiences. The childminder has not updated her knowledge and understanding of complaints procedures as introduced in October 2005. Parent comments about the care provided are very complimentary and state that their children are very happy.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home effectively to accommodate children's play. Children are at ease within the well-maintained home and the use of space gives children the freedom to move independently and safely. Children access and self select toys and resources from regularly rotated storage boxes placed at floor level and a well-organised storage system in a dedicated play area. Sofas are available on which children may rest or look at books. A flexible approach to the day ensures children's individual needs for sleep are met.

Most documentation is relevant and promotes children's well-being. However, a daily record of children's attendance that includes times of arrival and departure is not in place and written parental permission is not obtained appropriately at all times. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the National Standards and this is reflected in most aspects of her practice. However, she is in breach of regulations within the National Standards as she has not updated her knowledge of changes introduced to complaints procedures in October 2005.

Documentation is organised, clearly displayed and maintained confidentially.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the provider was requested to make the following improvements: To obtain written permission from parents and carers before administering medication to children and for the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

This recommendation have been considered fully and steps taken to improve the provision. Written parental permissions are sought appropriately both prior to administering medication and for the seeking of medical advice or treatment. Consequently, children's health and welfare is promoted.

## **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 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 satisfactory. 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):

- obtain written parental permission for children to be transported in a vehicle
- update knowledge and understanding of complaints procedures as introduced in October 2005
- put into place a daily record of attendance that includes the accurate time of arrival and departure.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)