

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY345316
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sara Bailey
<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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder re-registered in 2007 after a break from previously being a registered childminder between 2002 and 2004. She lives with her husband and three children aged 14, nine and six years, in Tiverton, Devon. All of the house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play, which includes a fenced pond. The family have a Golden Retriever, three cats, a rabbit, guinea pig and fish. There are currently four children under the age of eight on roll. The childminder is supported by Devon Childminding Association and the Local Authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's good health is exceptionally well promoted through the childminder's established hygiene routines. For example, pet hygiene is very positive, the house is kept very clean and hand washing is given the highest priority. The childminder and children, even the very young, routinely and spontaneously wash their hands after touching pets, before and after eating and using the bathroom facilities. They use liquid soap and individual towels to prevent the risk of

cross infection. The childminder wears disposable gloves when changing nappies. All health documentation is very clear, professional, well maintained and appropriately shared with parents.

Children's dietary needs are met exceptionally well. A menu of breakfast, lunch and evening meal options are provided for parents and snacks always promote fresh fruit. Children's dietary requirements are carefully monitored and parental wishes are always respected. Children have easy access to their drinks of water as they play, to ensure they do not get thirsty. Children enjoy being active both inside, outside in the garden and on regular outings to the park, local toddler groups and adventure parks.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely safe within the home and on outings as the childminder is vigilant about children's safety. For example, all potential hazards have been identified and addressed to minimise the risk to children. For example, door bumpers are used to prevent children trapping their fingers, electrical sockets are protected and stair gates are used effectively. Children can safely wander on the ground floor as they play, due to the layout of the home and the childminder's excellent supervision. Children share responsibility for safety. For example, they take it in turns to be road safety monitors by helping each other to cross the road safely when out for walks. They learn about how to keep themselves safe. Children have easy access to a wide range of age appropriate toys and resources. They are all of good quality and robust, many of the toys and small child-sized furniture are made of wood.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is very knowledgeable about all aspects of child protection through training and previous work experience. She is aware of the signs and procedures to follow in the event of being concerned about a child. She has a written policy, which is shared with parents.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are incredibly happy and relaxed at the childminder's. They are very confident, able and settled in their play and daily routines. They form very positive relationships with the childminder, who supports their play in an exemplary way. For example, play is very child-led for some of the day to encourage independence and decision making. However, the childminder is always on hand to offer help or advice when the child needs it. Young children thoroughly enjoy the intricate pattern making activity of Spirograph, but become frustrated when the pencil does not work or the shape moves. The childminder indiscreetly helps or suggests how to overcome the problem without taking over. The childminder also introduces the children to wonderful interaction and new vocabulary to develop their language skills in a very relaxed and natural way.

Children experience a wide range of activities both within the home and on outings. For example, the childminder plans for each individual child, to ensure they have age appropriate, stimulating opportunities. They visit toddler groups, local places of interest for walks and go swimming. At home, messy play is encouraged and older children make their own wonderful resources, for example, cutting and sticking pictures of different countries and cultures to make a book of the world. Children under the age of three years have their experiences and development recorded on individual progress sheets using the Birth to three matters framework, which is

shared with parents. These reports are illustrated through the use of individual photograph albums with captions to show each child's time at the childminder's and their obvious enjoyment.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn about equality of opportunity through the childminder's positive role modelling. For example, the childminder provides children with the tools to make their own book with images of different cultures, countries and festivals to learn about the wider world. Everyday toys such as dolls, books and play-people promote diversity and children who are bilingual are teaching the childminder new words and phrases to enable them to communicate effectively. Boys and girls have equal access to all resources. Although the childminder does not currently mind children with learning difficulties or disabilities, she has positive experiences to bring to the role and is passionate about meeting all children's individual needs.

Young children's behaviour is age appropriate and handled by the childminder in an exemplary way. For example, two year old temper tantrums are skilfully distracted through exciting activities, followed by lots of praise. The childminder uses positive behaviour management strategies for older children as well to ensure they feel valued and respected. They learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour and learn right from wrong. The childminder talks enthusiastically about each of the children, concentrating on the positives in everyone's character and clearly valuing them as individuals. A comprehensive behaviour policy is shared with parents.

Children greatly benefit from the childminder's excellent partnership with parents. For example, the childminder ensures all parents are given time to talk about their individual children's progress both at home and at the childminders. This ensures continuity and consistency in care. The childminder is very respectful of parents wishes, accommodating individual needs in all she does, regarding their care. She also supports parents returning to study and through practical help, which are clearly much appreciated from the cards and feedback parents have given. Written policies and a very detailed prospectus share a wealth of information with parents and a statement of commitment to parents is signed by the childminder.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation. Each day is planned to meet individual children's needs. Children's basic eating and sleeping needs are paramount to their routine, with times for being at home and balanced with outings. The childminder organises her space and resources really well to ensure children are given her full attention at all times.

Children greatly benefit from the childminder's knowledge and understanding of child development. She is an experienced mother and childminder, with an excellent knowledge of the National Standards and a commitment to providing the highest quality of care. She attends workshops and is an active member of local childminding networks to ensure she keeps up to date with the latest information. All documentation is extremely well presented, professional and promotes confidentiality. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since registration 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 outstanding. 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**

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