

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY343047
Inspection date	15 May 2007
Inspector	Michelle Tuck
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2006 and lives with her husband and son in Hambridge, near Langport in Somerset. Minded children have access to all areas of the house except the master bedroom. The garden is not included in the registration.

The childminder is registered to care for five children between one and eight years old. There are currently two children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to understand the importance of good personal hygiene as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times and learn self care skills. Children are cared for in a warm, clean home and suitable hygiene procedures help to prevent the spread of infection. For example, anti-bacterial spray is used to keep the surfaces clean and the childminder uses anti-bacterial hand gel. The childminder has attended first aid training, to enable her to deal with accidents that may occur to children in her care. However the first aid

kit is not complete. An accident book is maintained, to ensure parents are kept fully informed and an accurate record is kept. The childminder has not yet obtained written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, therefore the children's health and well being is not fully protected.

Children's individual dietary requirements are met by agreed arrangements between the childminder and parents. Currently parents supply all children's meals and the childminder provides a varied range of snacks such as apples, oranges and yogurts. Children are offered fresh drinks throughout the day so they do not get thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe and they are able to play and move about safely. The childminder supervises them appropriately most of the time, however children are not adequately supervised whilst they eat, for example, children are left in their highchair whilst the childminder assists another child with toileting. Safety devices, such as socket covers and safety gates are in place. Children are developing an understanding of how to keep themselves safe. The childminder teaches the children about road safety and she has an appropriate emergency evacuation procedure in place. Children are safe when taken on walks and outings. They are always strapped in the pushchair, or are restrained in appropriate car seats when travelling. Children are able to access most toys and play materials as they are stored in boxes and low level units within the conservatory and dining room, developing their independence and allowing them freedom of choice.

Children are protected from harm or neglect as the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection procedures and would recognise the possible signs of abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a warm relationship with the childminder and they are relaxed, confident and settled. They appear happy and quickly engage with their childminder and peers. Children play well together and obviously enjoy each others company. For example, they give a baby toys to play with and sit close when he is being fed his bottle.

Children are engaged in discussion with the childminder, for example, who will be collecting them, and what they would like to play with next. There are warm and friendly relationships and the regular interaction between the children and the childminder encourages them to play amicably together.

Children are able to access some toys independently and do so freely. Children are able to choose from a range of resources which helps to promote their development, for example, construction toys, imaginative and creative play resources. Children take part in more structured activities such as cutting out pictures and sequencing them also making play dough. Children have learnt the names to parts of the body through taking part in meaningful activities. For example, children drew around each other, labelling the parts of the body and used a height chart to see who is the tallest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for equally and fairly by the childminder, who treats all children as individuals and encourages them to respect each others differences. Children's individual needs are met appropriately in most areas of the provision, such as through record keeping and discussion with parents and providing them with activities they are interested in. The childminder understands the importance of discussing all aspects of care with parents to support a child with additional needs.

Children behave well and are developing a good understanding of what is expected of them. For example, they listen and respond well to her instruction and guidance and say please and thank you politely without prompt. The childminder creates a positive environment where children are happy, confident and settled. There are resources which reflect positive images of diversity and therefore children learn about the wider world. Children show a sound sense of belonging, for example, talking freely about life at home. The childminder manages any unacceptable behaviour appropriately and according to the child's level of understanding. She encourages the children to think about each others feelings and always gives clear explanation to why behaviour is not acceptable.

Children are cared for consistently and according to parents' wishes in most areas of the provision. To support this, the childminder meets and discusses care and her provision with parents. They then complete contracts, child record forms and consent for most aspects of care. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress and well-being through daily communication.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care and welfare is effectively promoted through the childminder's satisfactory organisation of her time, premises and documentation. Most necessary documentation is in place, and many of her policies and procedures are in writing. Each child's records are well organised for daily use, and stored confidentially.

Children are able to move freely around the range of activities available. The childminder provides a caring, homely environment and treats children as part of her family. She addresses and acknowledges children's individual needs. 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 contains 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):

- ensure written permission from parents is obtained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- maintain a complete first aid kit
- ensure babies are supervised whilst eating

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