

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY347393
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Michelle Tuck
<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 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 January 2007. He lives with his wife and three children aged 14, 11 and two years old in Chard, Somerset. He is registered to provide care for five children under eight years and to care for up to two children on an overnight basis. Childminding takes place mainly on the ground floor where there are toilet and kitchen facilities. Children have access to paved outdoor areas to the rear and the side of the premises for outside play. The family have two cats. The childminder holds a level three qualification in early years.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from healthy and nutritious food, which takes into account their individual needs. For example, parents provide the main meal for their child and the childminder provides snacks of fruit. Sweets, chocolate and unhealthy foods are actively discouraged, through a healthy eating policy which parents sign once they have read and agreed to. Drinks of water are available at all times in the kitchen where the children can help themselves.

Children learn the importance of good personal hygiene through established, daily routines which encourage independence. Children are provided with individual hands towels which are easily identified by a photograph of themselves above their peg. Pet care is carefully considered by the childminder to ensure children's welfare. For example, children and babies are carefully monitored around the cat. The cat's food is accessible to the children on the kitchen floor, however children know they should not touch the food and adequate supervision is provided to ensure it does not cause a hazard.

Children's health is well considered through the effective recording of accidents and medication. Written consents have been obtained from parents to seek emergency medical treatment and health records and policies are professionally shared with parents. However there is blanket consent in place for the administration of calpol. The childminder is well prepared to treat minor accidents as he holds a valid first aid certificate and has a well stocked first aid box.

Children have daily opportunities to develop their physical skills. They play in the park, or the garden, and activity groups such as 'monkey music' are utilised, all of which promote children's physical development.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's safety is given high priority, ensuring they remain safe and secure at all times. This is achieved through a combination of sensitive supervision and the provision of a safe environment. Children thrive in an extremely child centred environment, for example there are small chairs and a table for them to sit at. Children's work is displayed effectively and there is a designated play room. Precautions and levels of supervision are expertly adapted according to the ages and the needs of children attending. Measures in place include locks on cupboard doors and completion of a sleep chart to record the time when sleeping children are checked. A comprehensive written risk assessment is carried out on the premises, and also for outings, to make sure safety is continually reviewed and monitored. Resources are positioned extremely well to ensure children can access them easily by themselves or with minimal adult support.

Children are safe and comfortable within the homely, well organised environment. Space is available to allow children to engage in an extensive range of activities. They move freely between the different areas, confident in the knowledge that the areas are safe for use.

Children are learning about safety and how to keep themselves safe. The childminder teaches the children simple boundaries and rules to ensure their safety is maintained. For example, children understand what they need to do if the fire alarm goes off, including escape routes and assembly points, because this is discussed with the children that are old enough to understand.

The childminder has a comprehensive knowledge of child protection procedures which supports him in his role of keeping children safe.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and settled with the childminder. The childminder is very knowledgeable about their individual needs and how to meet them. He is very relaxed, calm and confident with the children which makes them feel safe and secure. They benefit from

attentive care given by the childminder and an appropriate show of affection. Children respond positively to excellent communication and well supported play. The childminder plays on the floor with the children with lots of enthusiastic communication. He constantly interacts with the children, introduces new toys with sounds and visual effects to stimulate the children yet allows them to explore and investigate using all their senses. Babies are introduced to books at a young age and their learning is developed appropriately to their understanding. The childminder finds a child's favourite book to share when she becomes a little unsettled, which enables her to quickly resettle into the day's activities.

Children develop independence through self selecting toys from a wide variety of stimulating, clean and good quality resources. Children are extended in their play with exciting activities to enhance their learning. For example, they enjoy opportunities such as visiting a fire station, exploring gloop and watching the weather. They collect rainfall and record their findings on a chart, which encourages their curiosity and promotes their learning. Children benefit from a range of stimulating, exciting visits where they explore the natural world. They feed the ducks and go for walks in the local area.

Children experience innovative play as the childminder uses his initiative to forward plan and anticipate the needs of the children. For example, he is aware that one child is very inquisitive about things and has asked what happens to tins when they go for recycling. The childminder takes time to research the answers to questions like this and expands planned activities to extend children's development and learning and effectively incorporates children's interests. Children are praised and encouraged at every opportunity.

### **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 the children with everyday toys, such as dolls, books and play-people, which promote diversity. The childminder takes the children out into the local community and discusses issues about diversity as they arise, such as why people are in wheelchairs. Boys and girls have equal access to all resources. Although the childminder does not currently mind children with learning difficulties or disabilities, he has positive experiences to bring to the role and is passionate about meeting all children's individual needs. Children gain a strong sense of belonging through the excellent use of display of their work in the extremely child centred environment.

Young children's behaviour is age appropriate and handled by the childminder in an exemplary way. For example, a two year old's upset over potty training is skilfully managed with reassurance and distracted through exciting activities, followed by lots of praise. The childminder uses positive behaviour management strategies for all children 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.

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 child's progress, or any issues that arise. This ensures continuity and consistency in care. The childminder is very respectful of parents wishes, accommodating individual needs in all he does, regarding their care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom he provides. Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation of time and space. For example, there is a flexible routine that is led according to the individual needs of the children. All record keeping and documentation is in place. All is clear, and accurate with the exception of blanket consent for calpol. All is confidentially stored. The childminder has his certificates displayed and evidence of his suitability available to parents. He is committed to improving outcomes for children, and seeking additional training when appropriate.

There is regular sharing of information with parents through relevant policies and procedures, and individual observation sheets. Children feel confident in the well organised setting, for example they are able to access resources independently and make choices.

The childminder has an NVQ level 3 in early years childcare and education; he has attended various workshops and holds an up-to-date first aid certificate. His commitment to developing his knowledge and practice is exceptional. Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge of the National Standards and the Birth to three framework.

## **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 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):

- ensure written permission for the administration of medication is sought each time before medication is administered.

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)