

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	162005
Inspection date	25 July 2007
Inspector	Sara Bailey
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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2001. She lives with her partner and 13 year old son in Bridgwater, Somerset. Childminding mainly takes place on the ground floor of the house, with access to the first floor for bathroom facilities. There is a fully enclosed, paved garden to the rear for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local Sure Start Network. There are currently three children under eight on roll. The childminder also cares for children over eight years of age.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and well being is effectively promoted and given the highest priority by the childminder. For example, the childminder has attended training courses on how to promote children's good health and has a wide range of health related policies and information, which is shared with parents. The childminder ensures excellent hygiene procedures. For example, the table is cleaned prior to snack time with anti-bacterial spray. Children wash their hands using liquid soap and individual towels and flannels to prevent the risk of cross infection. All

accident and medication records are professional, accurate and countersigned by parents. The childminder regularly updates her first-aid qualification to ensure she is competent to deal with minor accidents. She also administers asthma inhalers with confidence.

Children's dietary needs are met exceptionally well by the childminder and parents. For example, fruit is promoted by the childminder and ideas for healthy lunchboxes are shared with parents on admission. The childminder provides fruit or breadsticks at snack time. The children's own food from home is stored in a separate section of the childminder's refrigerator and labelled if more than one child is present. This ensures they are not at risk of an allergic reaction by having the wrong food. Children have easy access to drinking water throughout the day, to ensure they do not get thirsty.

Children benefit from being active with the childminder. Although inside space is limited the childminder makes excellent use of the local amenities. The children have lots of opportunities to walk to the park, docks and train station as the childminder does not drive. They go out whatever the weather to make the most of the outside environment. This includes playing on wheeled toys and climbing apparatus in the childminder's garden.

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. A wall mounted fire guard protects children, low glass is protected, safety gates are used effectively and low kitchen units have safety catches fitted. Regular risk assessments are carried out, fire drills with the children are practised to help children learn about safety and an emergency evacuation plan is shared with parents. The childminder's supervision is highly effective. For example, young children are escorted to the first floor bathroom, they are encouraged to climb the steep stairs at their own speed with support and they are constantly monitored as they play. Toys which contain small pieces are only brought out when babies are sleeping, which further develops pre-school children's understanding of their own safety. For example, the childminder discusses with them about the risks of putting toys in their mouths. All other toys are easily accessible in toy boxes around the room. Children have access to a wide range of toys and resources, which are in excellent condition, safe and age appropriate. The childminder rotates the toys on a regular basis. The play area is very child friendly, warm and welcoming.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is very knowledgeable about all child protection issues through various training courses. 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 receive the highest standard of care, learning and play from an experienced, kind and caring childminder. Children's individual needs are understood and met very effectively. For example, the childminder ensures that the inspector is introduced to children who are usually apprehensive of visitors in a way that makes the children feel secure. She supports their play in an exceptional way, which encourages them to gain in confidence. For example, they are praised and encouraged for their creations with the play-dough and it is suggested that they

might like to show the inspector. Children are very proud of their achievements and gradually develop such lovely self-esteem from the childminder's highly effective confidence building strategies that they are independently interacting with the inspector. The children are clearly very relaxed in the homely environment and feel valued and respected. The children respond positively to the childminder's own teenage son who interacts really well with minded children, as his mother is such an excellent role model. She interacts with the children constantly, developing their language skills and helping them to enjoy books. Children's favourite stories are brought alive with toys and characters from the books. For example, one child's favourite book is 'The three little pigs' so they have small toy pigs and a wolf to re-enact the story.

Children's activities and development are recorded to share with their parents in their individual files. Outings and specific play experiences are written up alongside a photograph to illustrate their enjoyment of an activity. These form a record of their achievements and time at the childminders. Examples of the children's creative activities are included, such as painting, colouring and sticking. The childminder has attended a variety of courses about play and observation, which she uses to meet individual needs. For example, the Birth to three matters framework is used to plan activities for the youngest children and the Foundation Stage curriculum is used for ideas on how to develop children's play in line with the six areas of learning for children aged three to six years. Messy play is encouraged from a very young age. As well as craft activities children engage in cookery and early exploration of sand, water and natural materials. Children are encouraged to have fun at the childminders. They have a wonderful, positive relationship with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children learn about equal opportunities through their play. For example, many of the childminder's toys reflect positive images of diversity. Children routinely play with multi-cultural musical instruments, puppets and play-people. Girls and boys have equal access to toys and children's individual needs are understood and met exceptionally well. Children with medical needs, learning difficulties and disabilities are supported in a positive way. The childminder is proactive at seeking information and works with parents and other agencies to ensure children make good progress in all areas of development. She has completed an introduction training to Somerset Total Communication, a sign language course. A written equal opportunities policy and learning difficulties and/or disabilities policy are shared with parents.

Children's behaviour is exemplary due to the childminder's calm, gentle, caring approach. She is very knowledgeable about behaviour through training and uses positive behaviour management strategies, such as praise and encouragement. A written behaviour management policy, including house rules, is shared with parents to ensure consistency. The childminder is an excellent role model to the children. She speaks with respect to children and builds their self-esteem at every opportunity.

Children greatly benefit from the childminder's excellent partnership with parents. For example, parents are kept well informed about their individual child's development and routines through a comprehensive prospectus, daily interaction and individual files, which contain photographs, observations and examples of their work. Contracts are regularly updated and reviewed, policies are all shared with parents and signed to show they are aware of their contents. Parental consent forms and countersigning of accident and medication records ensure children's good health and safety is promoted. Information for parents, such as the complaints procedure is displayed prominently in the lounge.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by exceptional organisation. The childminder organises her time, space and resources really effectively to meet the individual needs of all children. For example, their daily routine is structured to give them security, yet flexible to accommodate specific events, interests or sleep patterns. They spend time at home and out and about in the local area.

Children greatly benefit from the childminder's knowledge and understanding of child development. She is an experienced childminder who has attended many relevant workshops and courses. She has an excellent knowledge of the National Standards and is a member of the National Childminding Association and local SureStart network, which ensures she keeps up to date with the latest information. She is a bubbly, energetic, fun loving childminder.

All documentation is extremely well presented, professional and promotes confidentiality. For example, the daily attendance register is clear and accurate, comprehensive policies are shared with parents and the registration certificate is clearly displayed. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last care inspection in 2004 it was agreed to address one recommendation relating to the recording of medication. The childminder ensures that all medication records are accurate and professional. They are countersigned by parents. This promotes the good health of children.

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 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