

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY284016
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 July 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Elaine Douglas
<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 was registered in May 2004. She lives with her husband and son in a semi detached house in Street, Somerset. The premises are within walking distance of the local park and town centre. The whole of the property, excluding two bedrooms upstairs, are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. Overnight care is included for one child. The family have two cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five and nine children over five. The childminder walks/drives to Brookeside School to take and collect children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Network and supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is working towards an early years qualification.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is effectively promoted. They play in very clean, well maintained premises, where high standards of hygiene are a priority. Children develop a very good awareness of healthy practices through their daily routines. They are able to access tissues for themselves and younger children have their noses wiped when necessary. Older and more able children wash their hands independently, they use liquid soap and recognise their own towels, which prevents cross contamination. Younger children are protected from infection by the childminder's thorough nappy changing procedures. Children's health is safeguarded by the childminder holding a current first aid qualification; she has a good supply of first aid equipment, both in the home and in her car. All necessary records of accidents and medication are well documented. The childminder has sought consent from parents for emergency advice or treatment for most children. However, one child is not covered by this. The childminder has a good awareness of children's individual medical needs and works effectively with parents when children are ill or require medical care.

Children's health and physical development is promoted through daily opportunities for physical play, both inside and outside. Children join in with action songs and know to put on their Wellington boots and coats to splash around in the puddles. They regularly enjoy using large equipment at the local parks. Children rest and are active, according to their own individual needs.

Children are encouraged to have regular drinks, to ensure they do not get dehydrated. They choose from a range of healthy snacks and their parents provide sufficient, nutritional meals.

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

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure due to constant effective supervision. The childminder has very good procedures in place for contingency plans should an emergency occur. She has carried out good risk assessments on her premises and installed appropriate equipment to keep children safe. For example, stairgates prevent children entering the kitchen or using the stairs, unsupervised. High locks prevent children accessing areas which may contain potential hazards. Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment, which are well maintained and appropriate to each child's stage of development. Children sit safely at low tables or on booster seats at high tables. The garden is secure and checked regularly by the childminder to ensure it is free from hazards and animal faeces.

Children gain a good understanding of the fire safety procedures and how to assist the childminder in evacuating the premises, through regularly practising the emergency evacuation procedures. A fire blanket and extinguisher are wall mounted in the kitchen for easy access. Smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide alarm help keep children safe. Children are transported safely with parental consent.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's good knowledge of child protection issues, she keeps appropriate records and is aware of the correct procedures to follow for reporting concerns. She has good documentation in place to provide further guidance.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are eager to make their own choices about the activities they wish to take part in, consequently they are engrossed in their play. The childminder plans highly stimulating activities, which cater for the wide range of ages and abilities of the children, and helps them to develop. Children are highly motivated and often become animated with their enthusiasm. Children remain at their self chosen activities until they have completed them to their own satisfaction. Children respond extremely well to the childminder's warm interaction. She listens and responds to them, asking very good open ended questions, which extend the children's games and knowledge. For example, when one child makes peas out of playdough, the childminder asks her if she remembers the peas she had in a pod and gets her to describe them. She ensures that children engage in first-hand experiences and do as much as possible for themselves.

Children under three years benefit from the childminder using the Birth to three matters framework as a guide. Children's speech is encouraged and the use of sign language promotes their awareness of forms of communication. Children enjoy each other's company and engage in activities together. After school children are provided with a wide range of appropriate games, art and craft, and activities, to ensure they spend their time productively. Children greatly benefit from visits to the family farm to learn about and take care of the animals. They choose books independently and approach the childminder to read to them. The childminder has an exceptional awareness of the children's abilities and plans according to the children she has present, to ensure activities and resources are appropriate.

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

The provision is good.

Children are settled, happy and very confident in the childminder's home. They develop a positive attitude to expectations on their behaviour, and the older and more able children have been involved in setting 'house rules' for behaviour. Children are polite and share; they respond well to the childminder's constant praise and encouragement. She provides a good role model, and consequently older children are very good with the younger children, interacting in their play and helping with their daily routines. Children help take care of the environment and living things.

Children benefit from the very good partnership with parents, which provides good continuity of care. The childminder ensures she works closely with parents to meet children's individual needs. Good information is exchanged to ensure babies routines and care needs are effectively met. Parents receive good information on the childminder and her provision. The Ofsted poster is displayed and a clear complaints policy is shared with parents.

Children develop a good awareness of people's differences through playing with some cultural resources, accessing a range of books with positive images and using sign language. However, there are limited resources, which provide positive images of people with disabilities. The childminder has a good awareness of working in partnership with parents to meet any special needs and to adapt her premises and activities to ensure all are included.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's care and welfare is promoted by the childminder's enthusiasm, and effective use of her time, space and resources. For example, she has a flexible routine, which is child initiated according to their individual needs. Children benefit from being cared for by a childminder who assesses her own provision and looks to make ongoing improvements. She is currently working towards a childcare qualification, to further enhance her knowledge of working with children. Children's records are confidentially maintained and regularly reviewed, so most files have all necessary information and are up-to-date. Children's attendance is accurately recorded to protect their welfare. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to make sure hazardous plants and materials in the garden are inaccessible to children and to request permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Since that inspection, the childminder has had a small retainer wall built where hazardous plants grow. She keeps the plants cut back and the children supervised at all times. She discusses the importance of being aware that not all plants are safe, with the older and more able children. This helps to keep children safe in the garden. The childminder has devised good consent forms which provide good information on her procedures in the event of an emergency and parents are asked to sign these. This enables her to act quickly in the children's interest should an emergency occur.

## **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 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):

- request written consent for seeking emergency advice or treatment for all children
- increase the resources which provide positive images of people with disabilities

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)