

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	136409
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Kay Roberts
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder first registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and three adult children in a detached house in Warmley, South Gloucestershire. Children have access to the ground floor and a fully enclosed outdoor play area. Within the local vicinity, there are parks, libraries and schools. Registration is for a maximum of six children under eight years and currently there are two children on roll, both of whom are under five years.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is suitably promoted. They play in a clean environment where the risk of infection is minimised. The childminder shares her policy for excluding children that are ill with parents. She follows hygienic procedures, for example provides individual towels, and teaches children the importance of hygiene through the daily routine. As children wash their hands they are independent in reaching the wash hand basin as a small step is provided. After washing their hands young children comment that they have 'new hands'. Those who are potty training have few accidents as children are gently reminded by the childminder to use the potty and

are praised for doing so. Children's welfare is promoted as there are safe procedures for administering medicine and first aid.

Children learn about healthy eating through discussion with the childminder; she advises children that milk will help them grow big and strong. They eat healthy, home cooked meals, which take into consideration special dietary requirements. Alternatively food is provided by parents. Mealtimes are a social occasion as the childminder provides children with a good example and eats with them. Children do not go hungry as they are offered more and babies are fed according to their home routine.

Children have daily opportunities to be in the fresh air. They are protected from the elements as they are dressed appropriate to the weather and in summer, sun screen is applied. Two year olds realise that they must wear a hat outdoors because it is hot. When playing in the garden children develop co-ordination as they use bicycles and balls. They have fun chasing bubbles and enjoy having tea parties. On outings to local parks children extend their large muscle skills as they run around in an open space and use equipment, such as a climbing frame. Indoors children take exercise as they copy the actions on a children's television programme.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a calm environment. The home is inviting as toys are available for play and children confidently help themselves. Children remain interested in what is available as clean, safe, age appropriate resources are rotated with those stored elsewhere in the home. Children's art work is displayed on the lounge door, although it is not easy for children to see as it is placed at adult height. Space available for play is maximised as furniture in the lounge and dining room is placed to the side and children move freely between the two rooms. Children benefit from having direct access to a large garden.

Children play in a secure environment and are protected from people who have not been vetted. There is a suitable procedure in place so that children are only released to authorised adults. The risk of an accident is minimised as the childminder ensures there are no potential hazards in her home, uses suitable safety equipment and closely supervises children at all times. Children are protected in the event of a fire as the childminder has appropriate fire safety equipment, ensures the exits are clear and practises the drill with children. To help children understand about fire the childminder talks about 'Fireman Sam'. On outings, for which there is a suitable procedure, children learn road safety and understand that they must walk on the inside of the childminder on the pavement, and not to cross the road at pelican crossings until the green man lights up. The childminder has some understanding of local safeguarding procedures, but children are not fully protected as her knowledge is limited.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are relaxed in the close relationship with the childminder and her family. Children have good communication skills, so that two year olds are able to express themselves clearly and enjoy chatting about what they have done both with the childminder and at home. They are introduced to new words by the childminder, such as young. Children are aware that print has meaning and point out what one word says. Children develop fine muscle skills as they colour in pictures, naming the colour crayons they use and afterwards are helped by the childminder to cut out the picture. They recognise written numerals one and two, have an understand about

size and are learning about shapes. Children confidently make decisions about the food they eat and where they sit. They are motivated to learn as the childminder offers a high level of individual support and follows through on their interests. She provides children with an example, offers encouragement and praises their achievements. Children develop an understanding of the wider world as the childminder explains and demonstrates with a toy digger and roller how a road is repaired. Children have many opportunities for learning through first hand experience as they visit parks and go for bus rides. Social skills are extended as they meet the childminder's extended family and visit the homes of childminder colleagues. However the childminder does not formally monitor progress and is unfamiliar with Birth to three matters.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children new to the provision are already familiar with the childminder and her home, as they have visited with their parents, so that the experience of leaving their parents is less traumatic. They are emotionally secure as the childminder follows babies' home routines and has a close working relationship with parents. Parents' letters of reference comment positively about the provision; 'you've been great .... highly experienced'. The childminder's practices are discussed with parents and they have sight of her very brief written statements for some aspects of care. On a daily basis parents are verbally informed about their child's day. Suitable contracts ensure that all parties are aware of their remit.

Children are confident as they are praised for their achievements and receive a high level of individual support as the childminder meets their needs. They are polite, well behaved and show a respect for their environment by helping to tidy away toys they no longer require. Children learn about the wider world as they visit libraries, the homes of other childminders and go shopping. A love of nature is fostered as they visit a local farm where they see pigs and horses, and feed ducks at Barrs Court moat. They begin to understand about life cycles as they plant and water tomatoes and strawberries, then watch them grow. However, children are not actively encouraged to develop a positive attitude to difference and play with few resources reflecting positive images of diversity.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is appropriately qualified, but has not been proactive in updating her skills and knowledge. As a consequence the childminder lacks a full understanding in some areas of practice, for example Birth to three matters and the recording of behaviour incidents. Basic documentation is in place but children's health, safety and welfare would be further promoted if the childminder had effective systems in place for recording details of medicine to be administered, complaints and child protection concerns, so that no details are forgotten, and accurately recording children's time of arrival and departure. The childminder provides a welcoming, relaxed, well organised environment, where children have space for physical activity, play and relaxation. Children receive a high level of support and have opportunities to learn from first hand experience as they go out and about in the local community. Children are confident, able to make decisions and have good communication skills.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to meet one recommendation. Children's well being is further promoted in the event of an accident as the childminder now holds a current paediatric first aid certificate.

### **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 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):

- extend the range of resources reflecting positive images of diversity and provide activities which help to children to appreciate and value similarities and difference
- update knowledge and awareness of child care practices, for example child protection and Birth to three matters, and put into practice
- ensure there is fully detailed documentation in place for recording child protection concerns, behaviour incidents and complaints, and that the record of attendance accurately reflects times of arrival and departure.

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)