

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	118445
Inspection date	06 August 2007
Inspector	Rachael Williams
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 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 1998. She lives with her husband and daughter in Clevedon, North Somerset. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Children also have access to the main bedroom for sleeping and the bathroom on the first floor. There is an enclosed garden for outside play. The premises are close to local amenities including a local toddler group and park. The family have a selection of birds.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years old; currently she is minding for four children who attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well-maintained environment. For example babies and young children play happily on the floor without risk to their health because the childminder

has effective cleaning routines in place. Overall, procedures that support healthy and hygienic routines which protect children from illness are sound. However, children are not consistently encouraged to wash their hands before eating their snack and use a communal towel to dry their hands which does not fully reduce the possibility of cross infection.

Children are well cared for in the event of an accident as the childminder has a current paediatric first aid qualification and an easily accessible first aid kit. Accidents are recorded and the information shared with parents to promote continuity in children's care. Parental consent is obtained to administer medication and to seek emergency treatment or advice which further protects children's well-being.

Children have daily opportunities to play outside in order to develop good coordination and large muscle skills. They benefit from regular physical activity whether it be in the well-equipped rear garden or through regular visits to the park.

Children's good health is promoted well. They enjoy a healthy selection of fruit at snack time. Parents are encouraged to supply healthy and nutritious meals and the childminder is keen to support this, offering advice and loaning parents appropriate literature. Drinks are readily available to ensure children remain hydrated. Drinks for younger children are easily accessible and stored at their height to encourage their independence. Older children's drinks are stored in the kitchen and are regularly replenished.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure in the childminder's home as she has assessed potential hazards and taken appropriate steps to minimise risks. For example, access to the first floor and to the kitchen is prevented through the use of stair gates. Children benefit from a very secure environment. The rear garden is fully enclosed and a door chain is used on the front door to prevent children leaving unsupervised. There are sound collection arrangements to ensure children are collected by the nominated adults who the childminder has met. There are good arrangements to ensure children are safe when on outings. They are transported safely in appropriate car seats and with their parents' consent.

The homely environment is warm and welcoming. Space is well organised to ensure children can play freely and safely under the close supervision of the childminder. Children have access to an abundant range of toys and resources which meet their developmental needs. These are of high quality and checked regularly to ensure their hygiene and safety.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has good knowledge of child protection issues. Relevant literature is readily available and used appropriately to ensure procedures are fully understood and followed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder and achieve well through her consistent interaction and close relationships. The children are involved in a good balance of experiences to encourage their development in all areas of their learning. Flexible routines ensure that children's interests are acknowledged and that the abundant range of toys and resources are effectively rotated.

Daily household chores are used to promote children's experiences, such as supporting their manipulation skills as they help to peg out washing.

Children enjoy cuddling up close to share a favourite book. They handle them appropriately and show good coordination as they lift the flaps, identifying animals and making appropriate sounds to represent the animal. Children are supported well in identifying their colours, for instance by manipulating balls down the spiral light and sound toy. Children enjoy playing on the interactive game where they can press buttons to make sounds and to light up shapes. A child shows good coordination as he interchanges the people in the cars, pushing and pulling them along the car mat and up the ramp of the garage.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. Good relationships are established with parents to ensure understanding of children's individual needs. The childminder is proactive in accessing appropriate resources to support children's developmental needs. For example, she searches for an appropriate baby nest to support a baby as he begins to sit up so that he can be fully involved in the activities. Children learn about diversity through an appropriate selection of toys and resources. Although there are currently no children attending with learning difficulties or disabilities, the childminder has experience of minding children with specific needs and identifies how to support these children through regular liaison with parents and outside agencies.

Children are well-behaved. They are clear on rules and boundaries established by the childminder and abide by these. Appropriate strategies are shared with parents to ensure continuity in children's care. The childminder encourages children to play cooperatively through herself being a good role model, showing children how to play games together taking turns appropriately. Good behaviour is regularly praised and shared with parents.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective partnership with parents and carers. For example, daily interaction and information sharing ensures parents are kept well informed about the setting and their children's progress. Parents are well informed of the complaints procedure and the childminder shows good awareness of the procedures to follow if such an event occurred.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by an experienced and well qualified childminder. She has good knowledge and understanding of how children develop through her past experience of working in playgroups and caring for children as a nanny. Children are fully protected when they visit their local toddler group as the childminder closely supervises the children in her care ensuring that unvetted persons are not left alone with the children.

Good use is made of the well-organised homely environment and the local environment to extend children's experiences. High ratios are maintained to ensure that children are positively supported. An accurate attendance record documents children's hours of attendance as times are altered if they differ from regular minding hours. All regulatory documentation has been established. It is easily accessible and stored securely. Documents are confidentially shared with parents, such as accident and medication records.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were raised relating to organisation, health, partnership with parents and equal opportunities. These have been successfully addressed.

The childminder has ensured that all persons over 16 living in the household have completed an appropriate police check to maintain children's safety.

An appropriate medication record has been established which is countersigned by parents to ensure continuity in children's care. Children are protected in the event of an accident as the childminder has attended an appropriate paediatric first aid course.

Parents are provided with appropriate information regarding the complaints procedure. They are aware of the regulator and how to contact them.

The childminder has a sound range of resources to develop children's understanding of the diversity in our society, such as books, dolls, jigsaws and play figures.

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 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):

- develop further hygienic handwashing arrangements

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