

Inspection report for early years provision

---

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 104073         |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 07 August 2007 |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Joyce Bowler   |
| <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 has been registered since 1999. She lives with her two children in the St Thomas area of Exeter, Devon, within walking distance of shops, parks and schools. The childminder may provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are nine children currently on roll. Overnight care is not included. Minded children play downstairs and in the rear garden, and one upstairs bedroom is included in the registration. The family have two pet cats and goldfish.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's minor accidents are dealt with appropriately as the childminder holds a valid first aid qualification. She keeps a first aid kit at home and has an emergency kit, complete with resuscitation mask and first aid guidance, to take on outings. The childminder obtains written permission from parents to use plasters and to seek emergency medical advice and treatment. She records all accidents and administration of medication and shares these with parents. Children are protected from the risk of cross infection as the childminder does not care for

children when they are sick or unwell. The family have two cats and both are wormed and treated to prevent flea infestation. Children are taught not to go near to or touch the pet food bowls and litter tray which are in the conservatory. Children are learning to take responsibility for their own health and hygiene by washing their hands before eating and after messy play or using the toilet. They are protected against cross infection as they use individual paper towels to dry their hands. The childminder uses children's own changing mats and wet wipes for nappy changes. She has a supply of disposable gloves to wear when changing nappies and cleaning up other body fluids. She is rigorous in cleaning out the potty after each use and uses antibacterial cleaner and disposable cloths to do so.

All food and snacks for children minded during the holidays and full time are supplied by parents in children's lunch boxes. These are stored in the kitchen. Some snacks are provided by the childminder for children who attend after school and these include biscuits and cakes. Children have access to drinks while playing and the childminder supplements these with squash and water as necessary. There are no children attending currently with specific dietary requirements or identified food intolerances.

Children may access outside play in the back garden and when on outings to local parks or the beach. They have use of fixed play equipment such as the climbing frame and trampoline.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have adequate space to play indoors and out. They have room to play on the floor, to sit on the sofa and to enjoy table top play. All resources are well maintained and the childminder holds a store of games, toys and books that have been added to over the years. Children have safe access to resources via labelled boxes and storage in an ottoman and on shelves in the conservatory. Children are cared for in a safe environment where risks have been identified and minimised. The main play area used is the rear sitting room and conservatory which is accessed via the kitchen. Children benefit from the childminder's consideration of all areas and she has installed various measures to limit potential hazards. These include covers on electrical sockets, stair gates at doors and at the foot of the stairs, a fire guard and locks on kitchen cupboards containing cleaning materials. Knives are stored in a block out of the reach of children. Outside the trampoline has a safety net in place and bark chippings form a safe surface under the climbing frame. Babies sleep in a travel cot in the sitting room and are checked regularly. The childminder maintains her public liability insurance. Security is effective as the childminder keeps her front door locked when minding. Children are collected by named persons known to the childminder. The childminder carries contact details for all children in her mobile phone and takes this with her when away from home. She is in the process of obtaining written permission from all parents to allow her mother to transport children in her car in the case of an emergency. There are smoke alarms on both floors and a fire blanket in the kitchen. The childminder has not devised an emergency evacuation procedure or practised it with the children. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is aware of procedures to follow in case of a child protection concern. She has updated her knowledge and understanding of child protection policy and procedures by attending a training workshop this year.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a free and unstructured routine where they may choose to play inside or in the garden, weather permitting. The childminder provides a variety of games and resources which relate to the interests and ages of all children attending. Some children have been coming to her for many years and are familiar with their favourite toys and games. These include books, Lego, tea sets, dolls, cars, a play castle, boxed games and craft materials. Younger children are settled and happy to play on their own or in small groups and select toys and games with the childminder's assistance. They are learning to put games away after they have lost interest and before moving on to the next thing. The childminder has a relaxed and friendly approach to the children and they all appear very much at home. They enjoy chatting and playing together. The childminder allows children to watch television and DVDs and ensures that parents are happy for her to do so. She provides choices from titles which are suitable for the age group and are watched with parents permission. Children also have access to programmable musical toys and the Play Station. She provides different routines for older children minded after school and in the holidays as well as for pre-schoolers. She has attended a workshop in 2005 on the Birth to three matters framework.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are helped to settle in well by staying with the childminder for short periods prior to their contract commencing. The childminder has adequate resources to engage the interests of all children minded and has extra toys and games which are brought out on a rota basis according to the ages minded. Children benefit from behaviour management strategies which are consistent and relate to each child's level of maturity and understanding. She maintains a harmonious atmosphere by ensuring that all children understand the codes for acceptable behaviour in her home. She negotiates with children to ensure that different activities can happen at the same time without any one feeling left out or upset, for example when playing musical instruments and trying to watch the television. Children are learning to share, to take turns and to be kind to each other. Children have access to some resources which reflect positive images of social and cultural diversity in books, dolls and play figures.

The childminder establishes friendly and professional partnerships with parents and carers. She collects information about their children on record forms, maintains contracts and obtains written permissions. She has established an exchange of information at drop off and collection times and ensures that all unusual daily occurrences are shared, for example, accidents. The childminder is aware of the need to liaise with parents regarding any learning difficulties, physical disabilities or specific needs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She demonstrates satisfactory record keeping practice and maintains all the documentation required for her registration. Children's attendance is recorded daily but not countersigned by parents. The childminder displays her certificate of registration. She is aware of the need for the care of children over the age of eight not to adversely affect the care of the younger children and provides activities and resources for different age groups. She demonstrates her suitability by

attending workshops to inform her practice and improve her knowledge and understanding. Since the last inspection these include paediatric first aid, child protection and the Birth to three matters framework. She is aware that all members of the household over the age of 16 must be vetted and hold suitability checks and has obtained one of the necessary forms to begin this process.

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

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to address four issues which related to documentation, parental permissions, child protection and fire safety. The register now shows when children attend the setting but this is not yet complete as records are not countersigned by parents. However steps taken to address the three remaining recommendations have been effective overall. Written permissions are in place for taking children on outings and using public transport. The smoke alarms on both floors have been replaced and are working. The childminder has attended training on child protection. She has an improved knowledge and understanding of what to do in case of a child protection concern and procedures to follow in case of an allegation against herself. Overall, improvements taken since the last inspection have been satisfactory.

### **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):

- ensure that parents countersign the attendance register
- ensure that all persons on the premises over the age of 16 are vetted and police checked for suitability
- devise and practise the emergency evacuation procedure.

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)