

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY251404
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Samantha Powis
<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 to care for children since 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 17 and 18 years old, in the Ashley Down area of Bristol. Minded children have access to all areas on the ground floor. Toilet facilities are located on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children. She also works with an assistant at times, and when the assistant is present she may care for up to seven children. There are currently eight children on roll.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support and advice from the local authority.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is supported appropriately as they are encouraged to follow simple hygiene routines, for example they use individual flannels to wash their faces after lunch. The childminder reminds them to wash their hands before they eat and after using the toilet. However, at times children use the same towel to dry their hands on, which does not protect them from the risk of cross infection. The childminder and her assistant follow effective nappy changing procedures, which helps to stop germs from being spread. The childminder is first aid trained, which enables her to deal with any minor emergencies appropriately. However, children's ongoing health is not fully supported as a record of any administered medication is not completed. This is a breach in regulations.

Children benefit from being offered healthy snacks and meals throughout the day, which meet their individual dietary needs. For example they enjoy a tasty snack of fresh fruit and the freshly prepared tomato pasta dish for lunch. They can ask for a drink at any time throughout the day, which prevents them from becoming thirsty.

Children have opportunities to play outside in the fresh air each day. This supports their health and well-being. They make good use of the outdoor play space, and regularly visit local parks and play areas. They bring along waterproofs, which means they are able to play outside in all weathers.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's safety is supported satisfactorily. Toys are cleaned and checked regularly and stored so as not to be a hazard. All areas indoors and outdoors are well maintained, with precautions, such as stair gates and cupboard locks used to protect children from hazards. Fire safety equipment is in place, such as smoke alarms and fire blankets, however, the childminder has not reviewed her emergency evacuation procedures since changing the layout of the ground floor. The key to the rear door is not easily accessible to allow quick evacuation in the event of an emergency.

The childminder demonstrates a secure awareness of child protection issues. She has completed training relating to safeguarding children, which has provided her with information about the procedures she needs to follow in the event of a concern. This knowledge supports her in fulfilling her role of keeping children safe.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder and her assistant. They actively participate in the activities and experiences offered to them. Children are very confident and self assured because of the good support and encouragement they receive from the childminder. She is enthusiastic and uses her own experience and knowledge to plan an interesting range of opportunities and activities. Children benefit from the childminder's ability to observe and record what stage they are at and plan activities to support their continued development.

The children respond well to the childminders relaxed manner. She ensures they receive lots of attention and devotes her time to meeting their needs and joining in with their play. The childminder and her assistant chat to the children as they play, supporting their communication skills. Easy access to a broad range of good quality resources means children are engaged in their chosen play throughout the day and are able to extend their play independently. The childminder demonstrates a very clear understanding of individual children's learning and development needs. She plans activities and then considers how these can be adapted to challenge individual children appropriately.

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

The provision is good.

Children are made to feel welcome and included as the childminder creates a home from home environment where their contributions are valued and their individual needs fully respected. They are proud to see examples of their own paintings displayed brightly on the walls of the playroom. The childminder develops a secure understanding of each child's needs, so she can respect and value individual routines, preferences and personalities. This helps to promote consistency in the care offered to each child which means they feel settled and secure. Children are encouraged to think about their own identity and the needs of others. A good range of resources, which are in use daily, promote children's understanding of others. For example, when the children take part in an activity to draw themselves, she ensures she has a range of different skin tone paints available for them to choose from. The childminder adapts the environment and the activities to meet the needs of all children attending.

Children learn how to manage their own behaviour, due to the childminders consistent positive approach. This helps to promote children's confidence and self esteem. Children receive lots of positive praise and encouragement from the childminder resulting in their enjoyment and contentment. The childminder encourages sharing and turn taking through gentle discussion and support, and uses strategies, such as distraction, successfully. She shares with parents her policy regarding behaviour management, which helps to ensure a consistent approach for the children.

Children benefit from the good partnerships established with parents and carers. Children's individual needs and requirements are discussed with parents and carers prior to placement. Daily exchange of information ensures the childminder is kept informed about particular needs. Written diaries are used for children which promotes consistency and continuity in the care offered and keeps parents informed about activities and events. Parents and carers are provided with information on the childminders practices and procedures in the form of written policies and newsletters. This includes information about the role of Ofsted as the regulator. This allows them to make informed choices.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the well organised play environment, which allows them plenty of free space in which to play and relax comfortably. Children's experiences are enhanced as the childminder works with an assistant, which ensures they are well supervised and supported throughout the day. However, children's safety in the event of a fire or an emergency has not been fully considered. The childminder ensures all those having contact with the children, including her assistants are suitable to do so. Documentation is stored to ensure confidentiality

is maintained, however, in some cases it is not well organised to allow the childminder easy access. Some documentation, which is requirement of regulation, is not used effectively to support children's ongoing health and well-being. A daily record of attendance is completed, however, this does not include details of the children's surname, making it less effective in supporting children's 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 provider was asked to update her first aid qualification and obtain written consents from parents for seeking emergency medical attention or advice. She completed a first aid course shortly after her last inspection, which means she has the skills to enable her to deal with any minor emergencies promptly. Written consents have been sought from parents, however, these are not always well organised to ensure they are easily accessible in an emergency.

### **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):

- review the organisation of documents to ensure all information is readily accessible
- make sure emergency evacuation procedures are effective and ensure these are practised with the children
- ensure medication records are completed accurately.

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)