

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY289702
<b>Inspection date</b>	07 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sara Bailey
<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 outstanding. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 2004. She lives with her husband and four children aged 15, eight, seven and four years in a large, modern detached house in Cotford St Luke, near Taunton, Somerset. All of the home is used for childminding except the utility and office/gym. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. The family have three cats.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight at any one time, of whom three may be under five years. She currently has nine children under eight years on roll. The childminder also cares for children over the age of eight. Children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are supported. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health and well-being is effectively promoted and given the highest priority by the childminder. For example, the childminder has a wide range of health related policies, which

are shared with parents, such as a sand-pit policy and pet policy. The childminder ensures excellent hygiene procedures. For example, the home is immaculately presented, yet homely, the table and booster seat are cleaned before and after lunch with anti-bacterial spray. Children wash their hands using anti-bacterial, liquid soap and individual towels to prevent the risk of cross infection. The childminder washes her own hands regularly, to prevent the spread of infection. For example, after assisting children in the bathroom, before preparing meals and after letting the pets in. All accident and medication records are professional, accurate and countersigned by parents. The childminder regularly updates her first-aid qualification to ensure she is competent to deal with minor accidents. She also administers medication with confidence, which supports parents and benefits children.

Children's dietary needs are met exceptionally well by the childminder and parents. For example, fruit is promoted by the childminder for snacks and at meal times. Children are given choices with their diet. For example, a young child is asked which filling they would like for their sandwich from a few healthy choices and a choice of yoghurt flavours. All children are involved in the making of sandwiches using healthy, wholegrain rolls, and in the washing of their fruit. Older children cut their own fruit as well. Children have easy access to drinking water throughout the day, to ensure they do not get thirsty. Young children are excellent role models to babies, suggesting they have a drink each time they access their own beakers.

Children greatly benefit from developing their physical skills. They enjoy playing on large equipment, such as a trampet and a rocker inside the large spacious home as well as playing on a variety of apparatus in the garden. Children of all ages experience physical activities, such as bowling and playing at indoor play centres. They also enjoy regular outings to adventure parks, beaches and parks to be active. Children benefit from regular walks and opportunities to ride on wheeled toys. For example, children participate in nature walks collecting conkers and leaves. They also ride scooters on their daily school run on occasions, rather than walking.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely safe within the home and on outings as the childminder is vigilant about children's safety. For example, all potential hazards have been identified and addressed to minimise the risk to children. Safety gates are used effectively, low kitchen units have safety catches fitted and the home is very secure. A detailed, written risk assessment has been completed and regular fire drills are carried out with the children. The childminder has initiated visits to the fire station and a visit from a community police officer to develop children's understanding of fire and road safety. The childminder's supervision is highly effective. For example, young children are followed to the bathroom for safety, although their independence is being developed and sleeping babies are constantly monitored using a listening device as well as being physically checked every 10 minutes. Their sleep checks are recorded to share with parents.

Children have easy access to a very wide range of age appropriate toys. Children can play safely in the designated play room as all small pieces are stored out of reach of younger children to ensure their safety. All toys are in immaculate condition and stored effectively to enable children to self-select. The childminder has a wide range of baby equipment and car seats to safely meet the needs of all children's ages and stages of development.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is very knowledgeable about all child protection issues. She has attended recent refresher training. She is confident about the signs

and procedures to follow in the event of being concerned about a child. She has a written policy, which is shared with parents in a variety of ways.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children of all ages receive the highest standard of care, learning and play from a dedicated childminder. They are extremely well occupied with a wide variety of age appropriate, exciting activities. A scrap book of photographs show the children's enjoyment of outings to castles, cathedrals, animal parks and other trips. Children relish looking through this and recalling their time or looking for their friends. The photographs aid discussion and develop the children's language development. The childminder is particularly skilled at interacting with the children. She extends young children's vocabulary through much story telling, questions and discussion. She introduces and extends their knowledge of colours, numbers and shapes through play and everyday activities. The childminder is very aware of the short concentration of young children and supports their play effectively until they choose to move on. She helps them to make the next decision with ease, allowing them to lead the play but offer support as required. Children are involved in all aspects of decision making. This makes them feel important and results in them being very confident and self assured.

Children's play and learning is exceptionally well planned using the Birth to three matters framework. Each week the childminder plans activities to link with different aspects of their development. Their progress is recorded in their individual files and shared with parents to help her plan for their next stage. Messy play is encouraged from a very young age. Children greatly benefit from regular cookery and craft activities. For example, children make papier-mâché plates to display their home-made mince pies on as presents to their parents at Christmas. They explore sand, water and play-dough. Children are encouraged to have fun at the childminders. They have a wonderful, positive relationship with the childminder. Children are clearly very relaxed in the homely environment and feel valued and respected.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are understood and met exceptionally well by the childminder. For example, she is very aware of children's likes, dislikes, medical needs and family situations. She supports children extremely well, showing particular understanding of those children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She ensures children's privacy is protected and that their records are maintained confidentially. Children learn about diversity through their play. For example, many of the childminder's toys and resources reflect positive images of different cultures. Children celebrate festivals from all cultures. For example, they make cards and gifts for Christmas, Diwali, Chinese New Year, they colour in pictures and bake.

Children's behaviour is exemplary due to the childminder's ability to engage children in exciting activities and constantly praising their achievements. The childminder is an excellent role model to the children. She speaks with respect to the children and builds their self-esteem at every opportunity.

Children greatly benefit from the childminder's excellent partnership with parents. For example, parents are kept well informed about their individual child's development and routines through daily diaries, photographs, discussion and sleep charts. A comprehensive policy file is shared with parents and signed copies are kept on file, along with written consents for outings,

medication and observations. Informative posters about the children's activities, the Birth to three matters framework and the new early years Foundation Stage are displayed in the playroom, along with the childminder's certificates. Parents are also kept well informed about the complaints procedure.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by the childminder's exceptional organisation. The children's space, time and resources are organised really effectively to meet the individual needs of all children. For example, regular attendance at toddler groups, meeting with other childminders and outings are all fitted into the weekly schedule to give children opportunities to socialise. Equally they spend time at home, and their eating and sleeping patterns are adhered to which make them feel secure.

Children greatly benefit from the childminder's knowledge and understanding of child development. She is an experienced mother and committed childminder who is striving to improve the outcomes for children by continually assessing her practice and attending training courses. She has an excellent knowledge of the National Standards and relates these to her policies for parents.

All documentation is extremely well presented, professional and stored confidentially. For example, the daily attendance register is clear and accurate, comprehensive policies, procedures and risk assessments are maintained and shared with parents. A visitors book records all callers to the home during minding hours and the registration certificate is clearly displayed. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last care inspection it was agreed to address one recommendation relating to safety. A poisonous plant and a trailing lead needed to be made inaccessible to children. The plant has been removed from the garden and the leads are monitored to ensure they are not left as a tripping hazard to children. This ensures children's safety both inside the home and whilst in the garden.

## **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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)