

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	151384
<b>Inspection date</b>	18 October 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Juliet Eileen Hartridge
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Integrated
<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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband and children in Paignton, within walking distance of schools, pre-schools and other amenities. Children play downstairs as well as in a safely enclosed courtyard at the rear of the house. Children may sleep and very occasionally play upstairs. The family have a cat and goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under the age of eight years. The registration does not include overnight care. She is currently minding five children part-time, and is currently providing early years education for one funded child. The childminder is a member of the local childminding network and receives regular support from the network co-ordinator.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a clean, hygienic environment, where food safety checks as recommended by environmental health are regularly undertaken. Children are well protected from the dangers of cross infection as they are well aware of the importance of washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Their independent toileting is encouraged by the childminder and children carefully dispose of their paper towels after use. Documentation further supports children's good health as the policy regarding sick children is discussed with parents and carers as well as being available in the information pack. Clear and detailed medication and accident records are carefully maintained, and the majority of the accident records have been countersigned by children's parents and carers, to ensure they kept appropriately informed regarding any accidents.

Children have excellent opportunities to learn about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. An enjoyment of walking is enthusiastically promoted by the childminder who makes going out and about fun and enjoyable. They have good opportunities to run, climb or swing when they visit the beach or local parks, or pedal up a small ramp in the garden on their bike. An awareness of healthy eating is also promoted by the childminder. Activities such as cooking, or making table mats decorated by favourite healthy foods are enjoyed by the children. The childminder ensures that parents and carers are aware of what constitutes a healthy packed lunch and helpful information about 'Five a day' are displayed for parents and carers to read.

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

The provision is outstanding.

The environment is very well maintained and most welcoming and inviting for children, where they can play safely whilst being vigilantly supervised. Toys are clean and well organised and stored within easy reach of children. The home is very safe and secure for children as the rear garden is securely enclosed and the doors are locked or monitored by an exterior intruder alarm, and detailed risk assessments are regularly completed by the childminder. Children are very well protected from the dangers of fire as there is a clear fire evacuation plan which is regularly practised; smoke detectors are regularly checked and the fire blanket is appropriately installed. Children enjoy annual visits to the local fire station where their understanding of fire safety, particularly around Bonfire Night, is enhanced. Safety devices such as cupboard locks and carbon monoxide detector further protect the children from hazards.

Children have excellent opportunities to learn about safety and how they can protect themselves. They are reminded to play safely indoors, and they are developing a very clear understanding of road safety when they readily talk about the safety expectations such as holding hands, and using the zebra crossing or lollipop lady. Children are further protected from harm due to the childminder's very clear understanding of her responsibility to protect children in her care, as well as the appropriate procedures to take should she have any concerns. Her child protection procedure is available for parents and carers to read in her information pack.

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

The provision is good.

Children are confident and settled and secure in a friendly environment where they enjoy themselves and are helped to achieve. The childminder is aware of the various interests, enthusiasms and starting points of the children in her care and ensures that they have appropriate activities and resources to enjoy. Children benefit from a varied day with opportunities for creative and physical play outdoors as well as story time. A wide range of interesting books as well as resource books for the childminder are available for the children to easily choose, which successfully promotes their interest in books and reading. The childminder has a good understanding of the Birth to three matters framework, which helps her plan and provide enjoyable activities which help them develop and progress.

### **Nursery Education.**

Children are happily absorbed in the free play and planned activities available, and spontaneous discussions arise about what the children are doing and what they have enjoyed in the past. The quality of teaching and learning is good, and children are making good progress towards the early learning goals. Observations and evaluations of the children's play as well as planned activities are recorded and used to track their progress and help develop future play plans. The childminder enthusiastically uses situations to extend children's learning in a practical way. For example, promoting their understanding of subtraction when discussing the number of apple pieces remaining on their plate as they are eaten, or looking at numbers on posts when out and about. Number is routinely and fluently used by children as they play, whilst counting their jumps off the ramp, counting their toys or recognising their age in a story.

Children have excellent opportunities to learn about the world around them, and the outdoor environment is used most effectively to promote children's learning and development. This includes visiting parks to observe the changing seasons and collect materials for creative activities or visits to the beach where children are thrilled to see dolphins. They observe the growth of acorn seedlings and strawberries in the garden, or have direct experience of alternative forms of transport during interesting train trips. Children have very frequent and often spontaneous opportunities to enjoy music and singing or explore paint and other creative materials. However, some planned creative activities are overly reliant on adult support and do not provide children with sufficient opportunities to develop their confidence of using glue or other fixings or explore their own creativity and ideas. Children's vocabulary is extended when they talk about the shape and appearance of leaves, and discuss the meaning of Autumn. They are learning about the link between letters and sounds when they try to write and sound the letters in their name. They are encouraged to solve problems and think about what they are doing when they skilfully build with linked construction bricks. Familiar stories are greatly enjoyed and children's participation is encouraged by the childminder by appropriate questioning and encouragement.

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

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs and stages of development are carefully considered by the childminder who uses this knowledge to provide interesting activities for them to enjoy. Children have good opportunities to learn about their own as well as other cultures, or differences and similarities when they discuss issues with the childminder, as well as explore simply presented topics including Divali or Chinese New Year. Books are on hand, as well as thoughtful and sensitive discussions with the childminder to help children prepare for new situations. All children are valued and included and given appropriate support.

Children are polite and well behaved and demonstrate high levels of concentration, particularly when they are engaged in an activity they enjoy. Appropriate behaviour, as well as sharing is encouraged in a supportive and positive way, and children's self esteem is promoted when they receive praise or stickers when they have done well, or see their art work displayed. The childminder works closely with parents and carers to ensure a consistent approach is applied. Children's spiritual, moral, and cultural development is fostered.

Partnership with parents and carers is good, because the childminder communicates effectively to ensure the needs of their children are met, and parents and carers are fully involved in their children's care and education. Information about the six areas of learning is available in the childminder's prospectus and the recorded information about children's development and the curriculum planning is available for parents to read. Informative daily record sheets are completed by the childminder which clearly indicate what the children have done and enjoyed during the day, and encourage parents and carers to continue or extend particular areas of interest to their children at home. Photographs are also an enjoyable record of their children at play and are carefully collated to illustrate various aspects of their development.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The care of the children is enhanced due to the childminder's good organisation. The space is well organised, to ensure the pace of the day and range of activities is varied. Children have use of a large table for creative activities as well as plenty of floor space in the dining room, where good supervision is maintained at all times. Children enjoy quiet time in the sitting room, where they can snuggle up for stories, or active play in the accessible rear garden or on outings.

The childminder is very enthusiastic, having a positive commitment to training and developing her practice to benefit children. She attained NVQ Level 3 in 2005, and has also attended various training events and workshops during the past two years, including a recent child protection update, safer food training and first aid, and regularly evaluates her own provision. Documentation is carefully maintained, including an attendance register, information about children and various consents from their parents and carers, which ensure children are cared for according to their requirements. The childminder's registration certificate is clearly displayed.

The monitoring and organisation of nursery education is good. The childminder meets regularly with the Network co-ordinator who monitors her provision and provides appropriate helpful support. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

At the previous childcare inspection the childminder was asked to further develop the planning for children's next stage of development. The childminder has clear records of the children's progress and development and her observation records now clearly link with her planning to ensure that the children's needs are met and they are helped to make progress. This has improved the quality of the play and educational provision for children.

### **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 AND NURSERY EDUCATION**

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.

The quality and standards of the nursery education are good.

### **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 all records of accidents are countersigned by children's parents or carers

#### **The quality and standards of the nursery education**

To improve the quality and standards of nursery education further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- further extend the opportunities for children to further develop their confidence, independence and creativity particularly relating to their creative development.

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)