

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY349056
Inspection date	31 March 2008
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 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 2007. She lives with her husband and four children in the Comeytrove area of Taunton in Somerset. The whole house is used for childminding which includes a dedicated playroom. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. A rabbit is housed in a hutch within the garden and gerbils are kept in a child's bedroom, both are accessible to minded children with supervision. The family also care for a pet dog.

The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years old; at present she has three children on roll. She regularly drops off and collects from Bishop Henderson Primary School and St Michael's Pre-School. The childminder regularly escorts children to a local toddler group.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Taunton Deane childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is effective in ensuring children's health and well-being. She has extremely high standards of hygiene and robust pet hygiene procedures which protect children from the spread of infection. Effective nappy changing arrangements ensure children's hygiene, for instance the changing mat is sterilised in between uses, disposable gloves are worn and nappies are disposed of appropriately. Each child is given individual attention during nappy changing which promotes a comfortable environment for the children. Children enjoy a scrupulously clean and well maintained environment, for instance shoes are removed to ensure young children and babies can crawl on a hygienic floor.

Children are fully protected in an emergency as the childminder has an appropriate paediatric first aid qualification and access to a fully stocked and maintained first aid box. There are robust systems in place to ensure that appropriate consent is gained from parents to administer medication and to seek emergency advice or treatment. Comprehensive documentation to record administered medication and accidents is promptly shared with parents to ensure continuity in children's care. Sensible exclusion policies ensure children are protected from illness and infection.

Children are provided with healthy and nutritious snacks, such as organic corn snacks and fruit. If parents provide bottled food reheating instructions are fully discussed with parents to ensure their wishes are adhered to. These are prepared in a scrupulously clean kitchen. Mealtimes are a social occasion where all children sit together in appropriate seats, such as high chairs. Children are offered drinks regularly from drinking vessels which are appropriate for their stage of development. This ensures children remain well hydrated in their play.

Children's emotional well-being is supported effectively as the childminder develops close bonds with them and responds well to their needs. Daily routines follow familiar patterns which include regular sleeping and eating times to promote children's growth and development. Children have extensive opportunities to develop physical skills as they regularly play outdoors, and enjoy walks and visits to the local parks, ball pits and toddler groups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely confident in the meticulously clean and well maintained homely environment. They benefit from a dedicated play room which is well equipped with developmentally appropriate toys and resources which are easily accessible in low-level boxes. The spacious indoor and outdoor environments are effectively used to enhance children's experiences.

Children's welfare is given high priority as the childminder has excellent knowledge of each child and their family background. The childminder has excellent understanding of child protection issues and the local procedures to be followed which ensures children's well-being is safeguarded. Her knowledge is further supported by attendance at a relevant safeguarding course.

Children are safe and secure in the childminder's home. The childminder is vigilant and shows excellent understanding of ensuring children's safety; for instance, whilst travelling in the car

the childminder ensures each child has an appropriate car seat and that parental consent is obtained to fully support children's well-being. In addition, the childminder ensures she has photographic identification for each child in case of an emergency. Parents are well-informed of childminding practices, such as the use of a 'responsible adult' should an incident occur. Children are protected as there is a clear fire evacuation policy. The childminder ensures she only cares for two young children so that she can ensure their safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle exceptionally well into the well-organised homely environment. They enjoy their time with the childminder and achieve well because she positively supports their development. Through excellent knowledge of children's interests the childminder ensures appropriate toys and resources are readily available for their enjoyment. For instance, the childminder interacts exceptionally well with a baby who thoroughly enjoys toys which make a noise, such as push along cars. The childminder enthusiastically talks about how a slightly older child is absorbed in the activity of emptying and refilling boxes. Due to carefully planned routines the childminder offers each child individual attention to help them progress.

Children are engaged in rich and varied experiences which are effectively recorded through the use of a scrapbook linked to the six areas of learning (Early Years Foundation Stage). This clearly shows how children are involved in an abundant range and balance of activities which are fully supported by an enthusiastic childminder. A young baby thrives at the opportunity to look at herself in a play mirror affirming her identity; her gurgles, actions and looks are fully supported by the childminder who acknowledges them and responds exceptionally well to encourage her development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder forms excellent relationships with children and works closely with parents to allow each child to settle in their own time. She is exceptionally good at valuing and respecting children's differences and adapting daily routines to meet each child's developing needs. Children's social skills are enhanced through regular visits to places of interest and toddler groups alongside other childminders. Children are introduced to a sense of community through regular outings, such as regular reading groups at a local bookstore. Toys and resources are easily accessible encouraging children to make decisions about their play.

The children behave exceptionally well which is reflected in the caring relationships established and the opportunities children are offered to be fully engaged in activities. There are clear 'house rules' which are shared with the parents and are consistently applied by the childminder. The children receive plenty of praise and encouragement to support their developing understanding of appropriate behaviour. As the childminder cares for very young children she uses sensitive strategies to ensure children's safety, for example a young toddler is placed in a travel cot whilst having a tantrum to avoid injury to himself or to others.

Excellent relationships are established with parents providing children with flexible and appropriate care according to their individual needs. They receive a wealth of information which clearly explains childminding practices and routines. Regular exchange of information ensures continuity in care for the children. Parents receive ongoing information about their children

whilst in the care of the childminder, for instance through a daily diary or through scrapbooks of children's achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are cared for by an enthusiastic and dedicated childminder who shows good understanding of children's individual needs and their early development. She is committed to ongoing training, such as Early Years Foundation Stage and safeguarding children. The childminder uses her excellent knowledge and understanding of early years to plan and organise an exciting play environment. Space and resources are organised exceptionally well to encourage children's independence within the homely environment. The local environment is also used effectively to provide children with a wide variety of stimulating play opportunities.

High ratios are maintained and children's attendance is accurately recorded which positively supports their development. All regulatory documentation is in place and stored securely and confidentially which underpins the childminder's excellent practices. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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:

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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