

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	106563
Inspection date	07 January 2008
Inspector	Kay Roberts
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder first registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and two teenage children in a three bedroom semi-detached property in Knowle, south Bristol. Minded children have access to the lounge/diner on the ground floor. Bathroom facilities are located on the first floor. The fully enclosed back garden is suitable for outdoor play. Registration is for a maximum of six children under eight years at any one time, and currently the childminder is caring for three children all of whom are under five years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment where their health is suitably promoted. The risk of infection is reduced as the policy for excluding children who are ill is discussed with parents when contracts are signed. The childminder follows hygienic procedures, for example, using anti-bacterial wipes. Children learn the importance of hygiene through the daily routine as their hands are wiped with a wet wipe, prior to snack. After using the bathroom children are independent in washing their hands at the wash hand basin as a small step is provided. There are suitable

procedures in place for managing both accidents and medication so that children's welfare is promoted. Children are protected from the elements. In summer children do not get burnt, as sun screen is applied and they wear hats. Children do not get wet when it is raining as they wear raincoats and wellington boots.

Children develop large muscle skills as they play on the slide and trampoline in the garden. Co-ordination is used as they play catch and ball games. Further opportunities are provided to extend these skills when children visit local parks. At the indoor soft play centre children crawl through tunnels and scramble over nets. They enjoy the sensation of their hair blowing in a gust of wind. Children do not get overtired as rest and sleep periods are included in the daily routine and there is a system in place so that children do not disturb each other.

When thirsty, children help themselves to their clearly distinguishable beakers of water. Children eat a packed lunch which takes into consideration special dietary requirements and enables the childminder to be with children at all times. They eat healthy snacks of fresh fruit and when shopping the childminder sometimes points out, apples are healthy to eat. To date the childminder has not been proactive in helping children to understand how to promote their own health, but now plans to address this by providing activities which will help children to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy foods.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

There are safe systems in place so that children do not leave the premises unnoticed and are only released to authorised adults. The risk of an accident is minimised as the childminder is constantly with the children and continually risk assesses the environment to ensure there are no potential hazards. The childminder uses appropriate equipment, such as, fire guard secured to the wall in the lounge and safety gates at the top and bottom of the stairs. Fire safety requirements are met and in the event of a fire children know how to evacuate the premises safely as they practise the drill. Children are protected from people who have not been vetted and older children are informed about 'Stranger Danger' so they learn to protect themselves. There is a safe procedure for outings and young children understand that they must not play hide and seek, but must remain with the childminder. The childminder has some knowledge and understanding of child protection although this has not been updated for some time.

Children relax as they receive a warm greeting from the childminder and music plays quietly in the background. Children confidently enter the premises and start playing with the toys which are located in large boxes placed at child height. They have access to a range of clean, safe resources which cover all areas of learning. Children are comfortable on the child sized furniture. Childminding activities are focussed around the lounge/diner which is organised so children move around freely and space available for play is maximised. Premises are suitably decorated and maintained. In the summer months children benefit from having direct access to outdoor play and are able to choose whether they play in or outdoors, as the French doors are left ajar.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They confidently make decisions about the toys they wish to play with. Children are emotionally secure in the relaxed relationship with the childminder and her daily routine, which incorporates physical activity, rest and play. Regular outings to toddler groups, parks and soft play facilitate children learning from first hand

experience and provides an opportunity to extend their social skills. The childminder follows children's interests so they are motivated to learn. For example, when children show a respect for books as they turn each page, the childminder asks if they would like to hear the story. Children are interested in listening to the story about a shark as the childminder uses good intonation. The childminder has some knowledge about children's level of ability, and how she can extend their learning, although on occasions she may overestimate their potential to understand. To date the childminder has not formerly planned activities, but states that she will do so in the future. Children are alert to their senses and sometimes move to the music playing quietly in the background. They curiously shake the different cubes and listen to the sound of each. Children are beginning to use their imagination and pretend to dry their hair with a hair drier. They copy what adults do and after undressing a doll place it on a toy potty. Children are beginning to dress up and put on a pair of shoes. They try to put a dolls coat on, but reason that it is too small. Children are provided with the time and opportunity to be independent as they are allowed to dress themselves. Children use hand-eye co-ordination as they operate a cash register and interactive toys, after which they wait for a response. Children use problem solving skills to complete nine piece jigsaw puzzles and are proud to show their achievement. They are learning the sequence of numbers to six, although they cannot yet count. Children make sound progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children new to the provision are helped to settle as the childminder offers a lot of cuddles and tries to engage them with their peers. Babies are emotionally secure as the childminder, as far as possible, follows their home routine. There is a relaxed relationship with parents who comment that the childminder provides a 'fab environment for children'. At the interview stage parents are made aware of the childminder's practices. Fully detailed contracts ensure that all parties are clear about their remit. Parents are verbally updated about their child's day and when on holiday are encouraged to be involved in children's learning by collecting a treasure box, which children later use to develop their creativity.

Children are confident as they are praised for their achievements. All children are valued and included, and where necessary activities adapted to meet the needs of disabled children. Children are very well behaved and happily play side by side. They show a respect for the environment by helping to tidy away toys prior to snack. Children begin to appreciate the local community as they go on outings to the library, shops, parks, and occasionally visit the childminder's relatives. A respect for nature is fostered as children plant seeds and watch them grow in the garden, and they study insects. Children begin to appreciate difference as they compare the colour of their eyes and play with readily accessible resources reflecting positive images of diversity.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. All those living in the home over 16 years are appropriately vetted. The childminder is appropriately qualified and has undertaken training on equal opportunities and Birth to three matters since the last inspection. Due to family circumstances the childminder has not been fully engaged in her business, but this has now changed and the childminder plans to develop her practice further by being more proactive, for example, teaching children about healthy eating. Paperwork

is confidentially maintained and where appropriate shared with parents. All the required documentation is in place, although the record of children's attendance is not completed when they arrive and depart, but at the end of the day. The childminder provides a relaxed environment which incorporates space for play, physical activity and relaxation. Working in close partnership with colleagues the childminder is able to ensure that children receive appropriate care in the event of an emergency. Children are happy and settled with the childminder.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to two recommendations. Children now have more opportunities to develop a positive attitude to difference as the range of resources reflecting our diverse society has been increased, for example, there are now figures which show different images of disability. Children also begin to understand that there are different cultures as they acknowledge the Chinese New Year. Some improvement has been made towards the second recommendation which required the childminder to keep an up to date register of attendance. The childminder now records exact times of children's arrival and departure, but does not complete details for the day until the evening, rather than making an entry at the time.

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):

- update knowledge and understanding of child protection issues
- further develop knowledge of child development and plan a suitable range of activities to meet children's individual needs
- ensure an accurate record of children's attendance is maintained at all times.

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