

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357759
Inspection date	04 April 2008
Inspector	Joyce Bowler
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in July 2007. She lives with her partner and their two children in a semi-detached house in the Galmington area of Taunton, Somerset. Minded children have access to the ground floor, which includes a lounge and kitchen/dining room, and the first-floor bathroom and nursery. There is a fully enclosed outside area. Local amenities, including Parkfield and Bishop Henderson primary schools, are within easy walking distance of the premises. The childminder may provide care for a maximum of four children at any time. There are four children on roll currently, all of whom attend on a part time basis. The registration does not include overnight care. The family have two pet rabbits and two cats. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home which is clean and tidy. Their good health is promoted as the childminder has established routines for hygienic nappy changing and disposes of nappies in a Sengenix unit. Children are able to wash and dry their hands after messy play and using the

toilet and before eating which prevents the risk of cross contamination. The childminder uses wet wipes to clean younger children's hands and faces after snack and lunch times. Children's minor accidents are treated appropriately as the childminder holds a first aid qualification. This was completed in June 2007 and is valid for three years. She keeps two first aid kits for use at home and in the car or on outings. The childminder uses National Childminding Association documentation in order to record any administration of medication and any accidents. She has written permission from parents to seek emergency medical treatment and advice. Children's good health is safeguarded as the childminder adheres to the written policies she has prepared, for example, exclusion of sick children and her accident and injury policy. She keeps up to date records of the veterinarian checks made on the family's pet cats and rabbits.

The childminder follows parents' wishes regarding the provision of meals and snacks. Some children bring their own packed lunches and others have food prepared by the childminder. Each child has his or her own cup or beaker which is accessible for drinks throughout play. Children's dietary requirements as well as personal preferences are respected by the childminder. Children benefit from a good selection of fresh fruits at snack time and these include grapes, apples and raisins and they enjoy sandwiches with a good balance of carbohydrates and protein at lunch times. The childminder ensures that parents know how much food and drink each child has consumed whilst in her care.

Children receive plenty of opportunities to develop their physical play at home and on outings. Children enjoy visiting local parks and playing in the garden. In poor weather children are able to enjoy using push and pull toys indoors as well as exploring in the mini-ball pool and playing in cardboard boxes. They are able to develop both manual dexterity and use of their large muscle groups. There is plenty of space for table top and floor play and resources for use indoors and out.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe environment where risks have been identified and minimised effectively. This is demonstrated by the extra measures in place such as the gate at the foot of the stairs, corner covers on the small tables, re-positioning the telephone to keep the cord out of children's reach, use of covers on electric sockets and a cover on the DVD/video player. There are locks on kitchen cupboards and all potential hazards are out of the reach and sight of minded children. The childminder has a board against the banisters in order to prevent children from falling through the spaces. Children are helped to climb the stairs safely when going to the nursery for nappy changes and to use the toilet. Good front door security ensures that children cannot escape and that unauthorised visitors cannot enter. The keys are easily accessible in case of the need to exit in a hurry or when practising the emergency evacuation procedure. The childminder has taken fire safety advice from a fire officer who visited the premises and checked the smoke alarms and fire drill procedure. Smoke alarms are tested weekly and there is a fire blanket in the kitchen. All toys and resources are checked regularly for wear and tear and cleaned as necessary. The childminder has a written policy and procedures for what to do in case of a lost child and follows safe collection routines in order that children are released to nominated persons only.

The childminder maintains her public liability insurance and has suitable vehicle insurance to transport children. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and has prepared a written policy which is in line

with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She has local and national guidance booklets to ensure that she follows correct procedures and acts in the children's interests.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are relaxed and happy in the care of the childminder. They have access to a range of toys and activities which relate to their interests and these can be accessed easily by them in the main play area. The childminder makes good use of the local environment and enables children to socialise with larger groups at a weekly music class, a toddler group and on visits to the duck pond, parks and amenities. She provides lots of chat for language development as well as resources to stimulate children while they are playing. For example, she extends play opportunities when using the train set to create tunnels from books and children's legs. Children are helped to play peek-a-boo inside the ball pool when the childminder unties the tent flaps. The safety board across the banisters is used as a lovely display for children to recall their trip to the pet shop. They have glued on pictures from magazines of things they saw and in this way the childminder is able to foster children's current fascination with animals. She provides everyday resources such as cardboard boxes for children's imaginative play. Each day's activities are flexible according to the weather, moods and interests of the particular mix of children minded on that day. Children's progress and activity diaries are compiled to share with parents. The childminder has some of the guidance from the Birth to three matters framework but has not used it extensively to inform her work. She is intending to obtain information and training regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage which will be introduced in September 2008.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the care of the childminder as she holds comprehensive information from each family regarding their specific needs and interests. She gathers information on contract forms and has a settling in procedure to ensure that each child can become familiar with her routines and feel welcome and valued in her home. This is especially relevant for those children who attend for shorter days or part time. Play materials reflect some images of social and cultural diversity in pictures, books and play figures. All children have access to all toys and the childminder does not promote stereotypical behaviour. There are no children attending currently with identified additional learning or physical development needs. The childminder is aware of the need to liaise with parents and support agencies if needed and she keeps parents up to date with children's progress. Children with English as an additional language are welcomed into her home and some use of written and spoken home languages fosters children's sense of belonging. Children are learning to behave well as the childminder adheres to her good behaviour policy. This focuses on children learning good manners and beginning to play cooperatively by sharing and helping, for example when giving each other a drink and helping to tidy up the train track.

The partnership with parents is good. The childminder has devised a pack of information which she shares with parents before contracts are signed. This pack includes details of her family, her training and qualifications, written policies and copies of her vehicle documents. She obtains written permissions from parents for use of the car to transport their children, to take photographs and to administer medication. She follows her confidentiality policy and the use of National Childminding Association documents supports this. Parents are supplied with details of how to make a complaint if they need to and details of Ofsted, the regulatory body. Each

child's diary is shared with parents to enable good communication between their homes and that of the childminder. Effective verbal feedback has been established at drop off and collection times.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She demonstrates good record keeping practice and shares written policies and procedures with parents in order to foster trust and confidence. She has established good partnerships with parents since registration and is enjoying her role. It is evident that she has worked hard to establish her childminding service. All documentation required by regulations is in place and confidentiality is maintained for each family. The childminder organises her home well to allow for good play and rest opportunities for each child. Records of attendance are complete and the childminder displays her registration certificate. She updates her knowledge and obtains ideas for minding practice from early years and craft magazines and from the 'Who minds' bulletin from the National Childminding Association.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable - first inspection since registration.

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:

The quality and standards of the care are good. 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):

- extend knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and seek advice and information regarding the Early Years Foundation Stage in preparation for the introduction in September 2008.

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