

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY356308
Inspection date	10 June 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 registered in 2007 and has an NVQ level 3 in Early Years Care and Education. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and 11 years, in the city of Bristol. The childminder has two pet guinea pigs. Children have access to the whole of the childminder's house, including a fully enclosed outdoor play area. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and to provide overnight care for one child under the age of eight years. There are six children currently on roll, all of whom are over five years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a clean environment, and explain that it is a 'no shoe house'. The risk of infection is reduced as the childminder shares her policy for excluding children who are sick with parents and follows guidance from Environmental Health on exclusion periods for communicable diseases. The childminder follows hygienic procedures, for example, regularly cleaning surfaces with antibacterial spray. Children know that they should wash their hands after using the

bathroom, touching the guinea pig and before eating. There are suitable procedures in place for managing both accidents and medication so that children remain safe.

Children are offered a drink on their return from school and at other times inform the childminder when they are thirsty. They eat snacks of fresh fruit and toast. For children who remain later there is a cooked evening meal which takes into consideration special dietary requirements, as well as likes and dislikes.

Children enjoy playing in the garden and do not get sunburnt as they play in the shade and sun screen is applied. Large muscle skills are used when they climb up the steps of the slide and bounce up and down on the large trampoline. When children visit the local parks they extend their skills as they scramble up the climbing frame and use coordination as they play football. The childminder is not proactive in helping children to understand how to promote their own health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a sense of belonging as their photographs are displayed on the notice board in the hall. Premises are suitably decorated and maintained. Children relax on the sofa as they look at books, and rest on the bed as they watch the television. Furniture in the lounge/diner is placed to the side of the room so that space available for play is increased, but this is impeded by the amount of clutter around the home. Children move freely between all rooms in the house and are able to choose whether they play inside or in the garden as the patio doors are left open. Children confidently help themselves to a broad range of clean, safe, age appropriate resources, which are regularly rotated with those stored elsewhere in the home, so children remain interested. Children do not have an opportunity to make informed decisions about resources they may wish to play with, except for those available in the lounge/diner.

Children play in a secure environment, so they do not leave unnoticed. There are suitable procedures in place so that children are protected from people who have not been vetted and are only released to authorised adults. The risk of an accident is reduced as the childminder has completed a risk assessment for all areas of the home and garden. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they read the rules for use of the trampoline. In the event of an emergency, children know how to evacuate the premises safely as they practise the fire drill. On returning from school the importance of road safety is reinforced. Children are further protected as the childminder is aware of local safeguarding procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children new to the provision quickly settle as they all attend the same school and are formally introduced to others in the childminder's care. They are clearly happy and settled, and say that they enjoying being with the childminder as 'it is a great opportunity to make new friends and play together'. Children's learning is extended as the childminder follows through on children's interests and asks questions to make them think. They are provided with the time and opportunity to be independent. Children are social and move in and outdoors together as they engage in an imaginative game based on 'Dr Who'. The large trampoline becomes the time machine. Children use the sonic screwdrivers and demonstrate good communication skills as they explain how they work. When children begin to use the screwdrivers as guns, a gentle reminder from the childminder pointing out that they should be used to check if someone is

human changes the direction of the game. Some children use a 'Dr Who' sticker book, whilst others relax as they watch 'Dr Who' on the television. Children explore the environment using a hand held metal detector. Children are very confident and keen to share the books they have purchased. They read comics and with encouragement from the childminder, use good intonation to read four pages from a school book, as part of their homework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are confident as they are praised for achievements and the childminder meets their individual needs by talking to children and responding to their interests. All children are valued and included and the childminder has some experience of meeting children's additional needs. Clear of the childminder's consistent boundaries, children are polite and well behaved. Children learn a respect for nature as they hold and stroke the guinea pigs and recognise that they are moulting in the heat. They have only limited opportunities to appreciate difference as the childminder does not engage them in appropriate activities and there are few resources reflecting positive images of our diverse society.

Parents are aware of the childminder's practices. They are able to view her personalised policies and procedures. Fully detailed child record forms and contracts ensure that all parties are clear about their remit. The regular review meetings allow parents and the childminder to discuss children's care and learning. Parents' written comments about the provision are positive, '...very affectionate, friendly and helpful person. Children enjoy going to her house, they have great fun interacting with her two boys.'

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is appropriately qualified and keen to extend practice, has undertaken further training, and regularly updates her knowledge by reading pertinent literature. The childminder ensures that adult to child ratios are maintained and has a system in place so that in the event of an emergency children receive appropriate care. Children are welcomed into a relaxed environment where they have a sense of belonging, as their photographs are displayed. There is space for relaxation, play and physical activity. Children are happy and settled with the childminder. They are confident and have good communication skills. Paperwork is well organised, confidentially maintained and where appropriate shared with parents. Documentation complies with both regulatory requirements and the National Standards so that children's health, safety and welfare are promoted.

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:

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):

- improve the organisation of the home and resources
- plan suitable activities and increase children's access to resources reflecting positive images of our diverse society to help them appreciate difference.

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