

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY367360
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 July 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Sally Hall
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<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

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 has been registered since 2007. She lives with her husband and two young children in a three bedroom semi-detached house in the Plainmoor area of Torquay. All areas of her home are suitable for use by children but the ground floor is mainly used. She is registered to care for four children under the age of eight years and is currently caring for two children at various times during the week. She provides care Monday to Friday 07:30 to 17:30 and can collect and take children to and from, local schools and pre-schools.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a very clean environment. Their health is promoted due to the good practice followed by the childminder. They learn the importance of washing their hands after going to the toilet and messy play activities and have a poster above the sink as a reminder. They use liquid soap and have separate towels. Good practice is followed when changing nappies and the changing mat is sterilised after each use. There is a clear sickness policy which is shared with parents. Children are cared for well in the event of an accident, or being unwell. The

childminder has a first aid certificate and consent to seek medical advice or treatment in an emergency and appropriate documentation in place to record accidents and consents to administer medication.

Children enjoy healthy snacks and frequent drinks to ensure they remain well hydrated. Parents provide packed lunches, healthy eating is discussed with parents and posters are displayed. Children have fresh air each day with regular visits to the park and walking to and from school.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children play in a very safe and secure environment. Their safety and well being is given high priority. Play areas in the home are organised well allowing them to play freely and safely. The childminder has risk assessed her home and implemented very effective procedures to minimise hazards. For example, the nest of tables is secured with string; low tables are protected by safety corners. The front door is kept locked. Daily checks are made prior to children's arrival to ensure safety in the home is maintained. Children learn about keeping themselves safe when walking to and from school. Appropriate car restraints are used in the car for the different ages of children minded and have been checked to ensure they comply with regulations. The childminder has thought through an emergency evacuation procedure from the home and checks her smoke detectors weekly. Children sleeping are checked regularly.

Children have use of an excellent range of resources that are all in very good condition and easily accessible. The childminder ensures they are washed and checked regularly to ensure they remain safe. The childminder is vigilant when caring for babies that they cannot get to any small play items that could be potentially harmful.

Children are further protected by the childminder's secure knowledge of how to deal with a child protection concern. She has undertaken training and has relevant information and a child protection policy in which to refer in the event of any concern.

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

The provision is good.

Children are extremely happy with the childminder. Younger children are stimulated very well. She introduces them to new toys and experiences appropriate for their stage of development. She sings to them and has background music playing. She encourages them to handle books from a young age. Very good eye contact is maintained and facial expressions which they respond to with beaming smiles. They learn to explore and investigate and recognise themselves looking in the mirror. The childminder is using the Early Years Foundation Stage to increase her knowledge and to record children's progress and plan for their next stage of development. However, she has not had the experience of minding and planning for all ages of children. The childminder ensures children's daily routines are followed to ensure they have appropriate play opportunities, quiet times and rest periods.

Children have regular outings to places of interest such as the Zoo, Model Village, Stover Park, and the beach. Older children have a broad range of toys to select to provide challenge and stimulation and the childminder encourages them to use the arts and crafts resources.

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

The provision is good.

Children have a varied day and the opportunity to socialise with other children at local groups. The childminder has resources to raise children's awareness of diversity such as dressing up clothes and books. However, her confidence and experience in implementing activities has been limited since registering due to the ages of children minded. Children's individual needs and routines are known well. The childminder has systems in place to record children's progress which is shared with parents. Good discussion with parents and written information ensures they are fully informed of how their child had been and what they have been doing. Parent's wishes are respected, for example, children's sleep routines and information is shared daily on how they have been including their progress books. The childminder has a good introduction procedure for new children and useful information for parents including policies which they sign to say they have read. This ensures they are fully informed of their child's care. New parents are encouraged to meet with the childminder after a month to ensure they are happy.

Children learn the importance of good behaviour and are involved in the house rules. The childminder uses distraction and promotes positive behaviour giving children plenty of praise and encouragement. The childminder has a sound knowledge of supporting children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities should she be approached to mind. She has completed courses in Valuing Diversity, Makaton, and Supporting Children with Special Needs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a very caring and enthusiastic childminder. She has undertaken various courses to increase her knowledge of caring for children since registering as a childminder. Children play in a well organised and very happy environment. The childminder ensures that children's individual needs are met.

Children's documentation is very well maintained to support their care including parental consents and emergency contact telephone numbers. The childminder is vigilant in ensuring confidentiality with children's personal details. The daily attendance register is maintained so it is clear when children are minded. Contracts are completed with parents and relevant information is displayed for parents. The childminder is confident in meeting the National Standards and regulations.

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:

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):

- continue to increase knowledge to support and plan for all ages of children registered to mind
- extend knowledge to raise children's awareness of diversity.

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)