

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY353121
Inspection date	21 July 2008
Inspector	Carol Cox
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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her partner and four children aged two, four, six and nine years. They live in Weston-super-Mare, in North Somerset. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and two children overnight. She is currently minding three children under eight at different times of the week. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family pets include giant snails, two rabbits, a goldfish and a dog who has his own fenced area of the garden. The childminder holds a childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder effectively promotes children's health and well-being through good practices. For example, children benefit from regular fresh air and exercise when playing in the garden or on visits to local parks and beaches. The childminder provides challenging opportunities for

children to develop large motor skills when playing with a range of exciting equipment such as ball pools and bouncy castles. Children learn to use the toilet independently and are prompted to wash their hands before eating and after playing outside or with animals. The childminder holds a current paediatric first aid certificate and can treat minor injuries appropriately. All accidents are carefully recorded. There is a system in place to record the administration of medication. The childminder has only been asked to give medication once; on that occasion she did not keep the records of parental consent and the child was collected before administration was necessary. The childminder now has a clear system in place to record consent and guidance from parents and will maintain and store records securely.

Children benefit from fresh and nutritious food and drinks. They always have drinks available and enjoy a wide variety of fruit at snack time. All children's individual dietary requirements are carefully identified and recorded.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a safe, warm and welcoming environment for children. She ensures that there are well maintained toys and resources to support children's learning and development appropriate to their different ages and stages of development. Children enjoy choosing their own toys and benefit from a wide range of activities. The childminder regularly checks her home and garden to ensure cleanliness and safety. Parents give consent for children to go on outings and be transported in the childminder's car. She ensures that children use suitable seats and safety belts according to their age. The premises are secure and there are sensible evacuation procedures in place; children practise the evacuation procedure monthly. The childminder offers overnight care and has good systems in place to monitor children's safety during the night.

Children's safety is further assured because the childminder has a clear understanding and knowledge of child protection issues. Her child protection procedure is in line with that of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and government guidance. Children are further protected because there is a robust procedure in place to ensure that only those people authorised and identified by parents are allowed to collect children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a wide variety of interesting resources and activities for children to start making their own choices. She provides a choice of activities to promote learning in all areas and includes regular opportunities for outside play and physical development. She talks to children about their games and helps them structure sentences and extend their vocabularies. Children bask in her praise and encouragement and clearly enjoy her company.

The childminder observes children's interests and uses this knowledge when choosing toys and resources to offer children. For example, she ensures trains and cars are always available alongside other toys and resources for a particular child. She reacts intuitively to children to promote learning through everyday activities such as counting steps when entering the house. However, she does not yet have a sound understanding of how to use observations and assessments of children's interests and achievements to plan for their future learning and development. Children are happy and settled and benefit from the warm and friendly relationships which she builds with them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children quickly develop a sense of belonging in the childminder's care. They happily choose their own toys and are confident to seek reassurance or ask for drinks when needed. They have easy access to a wide range of toys and resources which portray positive images of people from different backgrounds. For example, she has recently bought objects and pictures from a trip to Africa to share with the children. Children enjoy caring for the family's pet rabbits and snails and learn to recognise the needs of others.

Children behave well and she helps them learn how their behaviour may affect others through sensitive and gentle discussion. She shares any concerns about behaviour with parents and is happy to work with them to provide consistent support for children. Her approach to behaviour management is positive and clear, for example, she praises children for sharing cars in their game.

The childminder values parents as partners and works hard to build good relationships with them. She gives clear information about her provision and ensures there is time for daily verbal feedback about children's progress. There is a complaints procedure in place with a log to record any complaints; no complaints have yet been recorded. However, parents have not yet been made fully aware of the procedure and contact details should they wish to complain directly to Ofsted. Parents are very appreciative of the childminder's care for their children and make specific reference to the variety of activities provided for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides warm, friendly care for children and works flexibly with parents. She has a commitment to developing her practice and attends some regular training. For example, she has attended Child Safe child protection training but has not yet completed training in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

There are clear policies and procedures in place to safeguard children in her care. All necessary records and documentation are well written and stored securely. Parents are aware of any records maintained about their children and sign to confirm that they have agreed the details. The childminder maintains a clear registration system to show the actual hours of children's attendance and she records all necessary consents from parents. 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 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):

- ensure all medication records are maintained and stored securely
- develop knowledge and understanding of how to plan for and meet children's learning and development needs
- make Ofsted's contact details and the complaints procedure clearly available to parents

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