

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY367273
Inspection date	10 July 2008
Inspector	Janet Butlin
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 was registered in January 2008 and lives with her husband and young child in a two bed roomed house in Plympton, Devon. The house is within walking distance of a school, pre-school, shops and other local amenities. The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years and there are currently four children enrolled within this age range. Children have access to the whole house and a securely enclosed lower patio area outside, but not to the upper lawn garden. The family have a cat and a caged rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children enjoy exceedingly healthy meals and benefit from the strong emphasis the childminder gives to nutrition and fresh food. Fruit and vegetables are provided from the childminder's allotment and garden. Children also participate in food preparation. Their understanding of the importance of healthy eating is strengthened as the childminder has organised the role-play area into a 'healthy food' shop. This facilitates discussions about what is good to eat. The childminder has sought advice and guidance from the local environmental health authority and

has undertaken training to support her practice in this area. Children are kept very well hydrated, and are praised for taking frequent drinks of water. Babies are held sensitively whilst being bottle fed and this helps them to enjoy their feed.

Children play in a scrupulously clean home and are effectively protected from germs. For example, pet litter trays are kept well away from children. They wash their hands before they eat and hygienic procedures are followed when the childminder changes nappies. Children receive excellent care in the event of having an accident or becoming unwell whilst at the childminder's as she holds a current first aid qualification and all documentation is in place to enable the childminder to respond appropriately.

Children enjoy the benefits of fresh air every day. They go on walks to the local park and are protected from the harmful effects of strong sunlight as the childminder ensures they wear sun cream.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are kept exceptionally safe in the home as the childminder has conducted very thorough risk assessments to ensure all hazards are addressed. She checks the home every day to make sure everything is safe before the children arrive. They are confident in the procedure to be followed, in the event of having to evacuate the home in an emergency as this routine is regularly practised. The premises, indoors and out, are secure and children are unable to leave unsupervised. The outdoor play space is safe and clear for children to play in and they are unable to access the upper garden level which is unsuitable for play. When on outings children are kept safe by rigorous supervision and the use of reins and wrist straps where appropriate. The childminder ensures she always carries a first aid kit and children's contact details when on outings.

Children play in a spacious, well presented home and enjoy setting up their games in a dedicated playroom conservatory. They access their toys and playthings easily and safely and all are in exemplary condition. The childminder augments her supply of playthings by making regular visits to the local toy library. Children often accompany her on these visits which means they become involved in choosing their own playthings.

Children's safety is further supported as the childminder has an excellent understanding of the child protection procedure. She has helpful, up to date guidance to refer to in the event of having a concern. She has also documented what she would do to promote the safeguarding of children and this has consolidated her understanding and confidence in this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time with the childminder. Those who attend before and after school enjoy activities appropriate to their age and interest. Children have planted a small area in the garden and watch as their plants grow. They also go on regular outings to places of interest. Babies are happy and content and smile as they explore and investigate toys. They bounce and sway to music and the childminder ensures that musical instruments are always available. Children eagerly listen to stories and the childminder selects stimulating books containing alliteration and rhyme to help children listen for, and appreciate, the sounds within words. They become competent learners as they, for example, work out that a toy will play a tune if they press a

certain button. Their communication skills are also supported as the childminder talks constantly to young children as they make early attempts at words. She records, in a daily diary, descriptions of children's interests and achievements, but has not yet progressed to using these observations to planning for children's individual development. Although not using it specifically to inform her practice she has a good understanding of the Birth to three matters framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider world in meaningful ways. They play with toys and look at books that depict positive images of cultural diversity. They also absorb elements of other languages, for example, Spanish, as the childminder has age appropriate programmes for the children to enjoy. Children who have specific needs receive good care as the childminder is secure in the procedure to be followed with regard to sharing concerns with parents and providing appropriate support where necessary. Children's individual needs are known and respected. Their specific dietary needs, for example, are carefully monitored so that children do not come into contact with any substance that may provoke an allergy.

Children are extremely well behaved. They respond well to the praise and positive reinforcement provided by the childminder. She helps them to understand the reasons why they should, for example, not throw toys, and the childminder frames all her explanations and requests in a positive way. Older children also respond to the reward chart where they collect stickers and stars for positive behaviour.

Children are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. Parents are extremely pleased with the service provided by the childminder and have written testimonials to this effect. All necessary consents are in place to ensure good care is provided. An effective and helpful system of communication, for example a delightful daily diary, is established and this helps parents to know what their children have been doing in the day. This complements the daily, informal discussions that take place. There are good systems in place to keep parents informed of regulatory procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

In the short time she has been childminding, the childminder has created an extremely well organised, bright and welcoming environment where children are cared for lovingly and conscientiously. She continually reflects on her practice and has a vision for the future of increasing her qualifications and embracing forthcoming changes to early years care and education. She plans and provides a worthwhile range of activities that enable children to grow and develop and support their good health. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. All necessary documentation is in place and is securely and confidentially stored. An accurate register of the times of attendance is maintained. This means there is always an accurate record of who is on the premises.

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):

- further develop knowledge and understanding of how to plan activities to support children's individual progress

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