



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	106885
<b>Inspection date</b>	13 December 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Janice Clark

<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 satisfactory. 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 2000. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in a house in Ashton, Bristol. The whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor of the property are used for childminding. The property is within walking distance of shops, parks and local amenities. There are currently five children under the age of 8-years, with the addition of an older child, on roll.

The family have no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they benefit from a suitable balance of rest and play. A sufficient range of physical activities that include the use of the garden and regular visits to the local park, contribute to their good health. Younger children confidently help with household tasks such as, sweeping up after eating snacks.

The childminder's satisfactory hygiene practice and adequate knowledge of healthy eating promotes children's health and sufficiently supports their dietary requirements. For example, children learn to manage their personal skills independently or with little assistance; they use wet wipes to clean their hands before food and are encouraged to wash them after going to the toilet. Children enjoy some nutritious snacks such as, occasional fresh fruit and drinks that are readily available to them. They develop social skills as they eat their meals together at the table. However, treats, such as sweets and crisps, and lunches brought from home that mainly consist of convenience food, do not broaden their understanding of healthy eating.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are safe and secure in an environment where there is sufficient room for them to play independently. They benefit from playing with toys and equipment that are safe and generally hygienic. Older children confidently make choices because resources are easily accessible to them. The childminder takes a number of precautions to ensure that children can play and travel in safety; there is a safety gate at the bottom of the stairs; electrical sockets are covered and appropriate measures are taken when children are being transported in the car. However, the childminder has not been able to identify all potential hazards. For example, the garden is not secure, medication is not stored appropriately and young children are not always held while drinking from a bottle. Therefore, this compromises children's safety.

The childminder takes some measures to make sure children's welfare is safeguarded and protected. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and most required documents regarding children's health and safety are in place. However, not all of these are kept up-to-date and some lack necessary detail. The childminder has an adequate understanding of child protection in line with the Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder interacts with the children, she cares for them appropriately and

attends to their needs. As a result, children relate well to the childminder and are happy and comfortable to ask for help when required. Children enjoy a satisfactory range of suitable resources and activities and these are easily accessible to them. For example, children play with some art and craft materials, they occasionally cook biscuits and cakes, they play with puzzles, construction, imaginative toys and dolls. However, children have a limited selection of toys at any one time because they are encouraged to tidy each one away before accessing another. As a result, children do not become involved in their play and lack interest. The childminder is familiar with the Birth to three matters framework, however, she has not yet effectively introduced it into the setting. Therefore, children do not always benefit from a wide range of stimulating fun activities that are planned appropriately for their age and stage of development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides the children with some resources that assist in promoting a positive view of the wider world. For example, children listen to stories and look at a range of books that portray images of culture, ethnicity, disability and religion. Visits to the local park and play groups, help children to learn about their local community and the diversity of the people who work and live there.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of behaviour management and practises some developmentally appropriate strategies. She uses positive reinforcement to promote good behaviour. For instance, the childminder encourages children to tidy away their toys when they are finished playing with them and she praises them for their efforts. She explains to children why some behaviour is inappropriate. For example, when a younger child tried to access electronic equipment, the childminder explained that it was not safe. Children learn to take turns and to share. As a result, children generally play well together.

The childminder discusses children's needs with the parents when they first start and whenever possible, parents are encouraged to settle them slowly into the setting. This helps the childminder to gain a reasonable knowledge and understanding of individual children and therefore, they benefit from a routine similar to what they already know. The childminder shares information with parents on a daily basis, verbally and through the form of a written diary. As a result, there is good communication between the childminder and the parents, and children benefit from continuity between the home and the setting.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her daily routine to incorporate visits to a local playgroup. As a result, children enjoy the benefits of a home environment, as well as socialising with other children and exploring different resources and activities. The childminder discusses her policies and procedures with parents when they first start. This helps to

promote a happy and comfortable atmosphere for children to play. Most required documents are in place. However, the childminder does not keep all records up-to-date and some lack necessary detail. For example, the records for recording of medication are incorrectly dated. In addition, she does not have parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder is keen to extend her knowledge and understanding of childcare through attending numerous courses such as, Child Protection, Behaviour Management and Birth to three matters. Her commitment to attending training assists her to develop her childminding practice and promote satisfactory outcomes for children. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children in her care.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

During the last inspection the childminder was requested to develop her knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities issues, inform Ofsted of any significant changes to the premises, make sure that areas such as, the garden, kitchen, landing and bathroom do not pose a hazard to minded children. In addition the childminder was requested to plan a range of activities and play opportunities for children's overall development.

Since the last inspection the childminder has actioned identified risks to children and this assists in promoting children's safety and well-being. A broad range of resources are stored in containers that are easily accessible to children and as a result, they are able to independently select toys of their choice. However, the childminder still does not plan a wide range of experiences or activities to promote children's overall development and therefore, there is room for further improvement in this area. Children now have access to some resources such as, a range of books that promote positive images and therefore, children begin to learn about diversity. However, the range and variety of toys and equipment in this area are limited and this inhibits children's experiences and understanding of others.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004 Ofsted have received three concerns.

In November 2004 concerns were raised under National Standard 2 (Organisation) and National Standard 3 (Care, learning and play), that children's individual needs were not met; National Standard 8 (Food and drink), that individual dietary requirements were not met; National Standard 11 (Behaviour), that inappropriate behaviour management techniques were used; and National Standard 12 (Working in partnership with parents and carers), that parental instructions had not been followed. The childminder agreed not to mind while the investigation took place. Following an investigation of the concerns, compliance notices were issued. The childminder has been monitored and following a further action, she remains suitable for registration.

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):

- take positive steps to ensure that children have regular access to a variety of nutritious meals and snacks
- ensure all hazards regarding the safety in the home are identified and actioned appropriately
- improve the outcomes for children from birth to 3-years by using an approach in line with Birth to three matters
- extend existing range of toys and activities to promote children's experience of the wider world and understanding of others
- ensure that all required documentation meets the required National Standards and that parental permission is obtained to seek emergency medical advice or treatment

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