



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY233915
Inspection date	17 November 2005
Inspector	Brenda Joan Flewitt

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 2002. She lives with her daughter aged 14 years, in Yeovil, Somerset. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding which includes a lounge, play room, kitchen-diner and toilet facilities. Sleeping facilities are provided on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children at any one time and is currently minding 2 children under the age of 4 years and 1 school aged child, on a part time basis. She walks to local schools and pre-schools to deliver and collect

children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's healthy lifestyle is well promoted. They are cared for in a warm, welcoming family home which is clean and tidy. Children learn good procedures for their own personal hygiene through discussion and example, provided by the childminder. For example, children always wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The childminder's clear procedures help protect children from the spread of infection. For instance, she supplies individual towels for children to dry their hands, and makes sure parents are informed that children must not attend if they are ill.

Children have regular access to drinks, as the childminder makes sure their individual cups are within their reach. Children make choices from a good range of healthy, nutritious snacks and cooked lunches supplied by the childminder, which contain fruit and vegetables on a daily basis. The childminder makes sure that the food is presented appropriately which encourages children to eat well. Children's individual dietary requirements are recorded and respected, in agreement with parents.

Children respond well to a semi-structured routine that includes a good balance of physical activity, quiet times and opportunities to rest as individual needs require. They enjoy daily fresh air and exercise during the routine walk from pre-school, or visits to the park where they climb, swing and slide. Outings to soft indoor play venues give children the opportunity to develop their physical skills in a safe environment.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure, well maintained property where most hazards and risks are identified and minimised. The childminder has put measures in place to help prevent accidents such as, safe storage of hazardous substances. However, some electrical sockets are exposed in rooms used by children, and the glass in the summer house is not safety glass. Therefore, there is a risk to children's safety in these areas. Children confidently move around the spacious rooms choosing their activities. They use a suitable range of equipment which is in good condition, including buggies with harnesses to keep them safe when travelling. The good security system means that children are protected from un-invited visitors and cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

Children are protected on outings through the childminder's safe procedures which include ensuring children walk on the inside of the pavement, visiting appropriate venues and taking first aid equipment with her. Children learn about road safety

through good example, and involvement in using the road crossing equipment. For example, a two-year old likes to press the button at the pedestrian crossing, and learns which colour light means that it is safe to cross. Every child has not been involved in practising the emergency evacuation procedure, which could compromise their safety in a real situation.

The childminder's sound understanding of child protection issues and the Area Child Protection Committee procedures contributes towards the children's safety and welfare. Parents are made aware of the childminder's responsibility through discussion and routine recording of existing injuries.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and secure in their childminder's care. They form positive relationships with her and each other. For example, a three-year old remembers her friend she plays with after school and saves him some sweets she received at pre-school. Children develop confidence in making their needs known as they can be sure of a friendly and caring response.

Children are involved in a good variety of activities that promote learning in all areas of development. These include role play, art and craft, books, stories, music, cooking, construction, dough and puzzles. The childminder plans adult led activities linked with themes and topics like, 'Autumn' and 'Shapes'. For example, children collect leaves and twigs on their way back from pre-school and look forward to 'making a nest' in the craft activity after lunch. They receive positive support from the childminder who encourages them to make choices within their activities. She asks questions to make them think and talks with them to help them learn. She has compiled scrap books for the older children which include samples of children's work, and observations of skills and achievements. Children independently select toys and equipment from a suitable range of resources, which are stored at a low level. For example, a two-year old confidently finds the box of vehicles to play with on the race track laid out in the lounge.

Children's days include visits outside the home where they explore their local environment. For example, they enjoy shopping where they can make choices of fruit for their snacks and talk about where it grew. They like to spot birds and animals as they walk along a woodland path, or experience a ride on a bus. As a result, children develop a positive attitude to the world around them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are respected as individuals. The childminder knows each child well through positive interaction while supporting their activities, and effective communication with parents. She gives high priority to meeting individual needs by working in partnership with parents. For example, particular dietary requirements are strictly respected, and

languages other than English are promoted in line with parents wishes. Children are made to feel included and important as the childminder involves them in suggesting activities such as, singing songs a four-year old has learnt at school, and in tasks of responsibility like clearing the table for lunch.

Children behave well. They are always occupied in positive play and respond favourably to the childminder's praise and encouragement for effort, achievement, and kindness. They know what is expected through daily routine and consistent expectations, such as always sitting at the table to eat. They are encouraged to display good manners and respect for others, through discussion and the childminder's good example.

Children benefit from the childminder's open and professional relationship with parents. She promotes effective communication between herself and parents. This includes written information about the setting, policies and procedures and daily opportunities for discussion and sharing information. This contributes towards meeting children's individual needs effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The appropriate organisation of the premises and structure of the day leads to children being active in a generally safe environment, eating and resting as individual needs require, and enjoying activities outside the home.

Records and documentation are well organised and up to date. Most policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. The childminder has not yet received information about her responsibility regarding complaints. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The last inspection recommended that fire safety precautions were improved by ensuring smoke alarms were suitably placed on each level of the property and maintained in working order and that written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment was requested.

The childminder had installed an additional smoke alarm on the first floor and checks all detectors regularly. Written parental permission has been obtained, for each child, to seek medical advice or treatment in an emergency. This contributes towards children's health and safety in emergency situations.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- make sure that electrical sockets and glass in the summer house are safe, or inaccessible to children
- develop a clear emergency evacuation procedure and practise it with all the children, to ensure it is effective
- enhance the focus on the younger children's progress, for example by using the Birth to three framework

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk