



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY227261
<b>Inspection date</b>	25 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Brenda Joan Flewitt

<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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her 2 children aged 9 and 7 years in Yeovil, Somerset. The ground floor is used for childminding which includes a lounge-diner and toilet facilities. Sleeping provision is available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding 4 children under the age of 5 years and 2 school aged children on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for children over the age of 8 years.

The family have a pet cat to which the children have supervised access.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and a local childminding network. She is currently studying towards an NVQ level 3.

## **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 and develop independence for their own personal hygiene through discussion and example provided by the childminder. Children wash their hands thoroughly before eating and after using the toilet; they can easily access the facilities provided on the first floor. The childminder's clear procedures help protect children from the spread of infection. For example, she supplies individual towels for children to dry their hands, has a system for nappy changing which is hygienic and makes sure parents are informed that children must not attend if they are ill.

The childminder promotes healthy eating through discussion with parents and providing nutritious snacks which contain fruit on a daily basis. Children make choices from food supplied from home or by the childminder, as agreed with parents.

Children respond well to a semi-structured routine that includes a good balance of physical activity, quiet times and opportunities for rest and sleep as individual needs require. They enjoy daily fresh air and exercise as they walk to school or visit the play park where they swing, slide and climb. Children are made aware of protecting themselves from the weather. For example, they know that they must wear hats, scarves and gloves in cold weather, and hats and sun cream in the summer sun.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure new property, where hazards and risks are identified and minimised. The childminder has put measures in place to help prevent accidents. For example, safe storage of hazardous substances and safety gates to prevent access to the kitchen and stairs. Children move around with confidence and in safety as they play. Children use well maintained equipment to keep them safe while sleeping, eating and travelling. The children play with toys and resources which are kept in good condition. The good security system means that children are protected from un-invited visitors and cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

Children are kept safe on outings through the childminder's clear procedures. These include, using harnesses and reins as appropriate, checking venues for possible hazards and taking first aid equipment with her. Children learn about their own safety through discussion and involvement in crossing roads. For example, a pre-school

child knows 'the green light must be green before you can cross'. All children are involved in practices to leave the home in an emergency, which helps them learn what is expected and contributes towards 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 in child protection through discussion and the routine recording of existing injuries.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, settled and secure in their childminder's care. They form positive relationships with their childminder and each other. For example, they enjoy choosing a book for their childminder to read and like to cuddle up when sharing the story. Children are confident in making their needs known as they can be sure of a friendly response.

Children are involved in a suitable range of experiences that promote learning. These include construction, books, cooking, drawing, threading and miniature world. They receive positive support from the childminder who encourages them to think about colours, shapes and numbers through play and everyday tasks. For example, a pre-school child names the colours and shapes she is using to thread onto a lace, while a younger child chooses one particular shape. Children cannot easily divert from the organised activities, as the childminder generally encourages all children to be involved in the same activity at the same time. This means that, on occasions, the youngest children become disinterested. They use a satisfactory range of play equipment which is appropriate for their age and stage of development. However, they cannot make spontaneous choices as the storage arrangements mean that a full range is not easily accessible.

Children enjoy a good variety of visits outside the home where they explore their local environment, meet other people and have opportunities to use a wider range of equipment. For example, the children enjoy recounting their trip on a train to Weymouth beach where they paddled in the sea. They regularly visit the childminders' toddler group where they play with other children and gain trust in other adults. 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 gets to know each child's particular needs, through positive interaction while supporting their activities and effective communication with parents. Children begin to develop an awareness of a diverse society as they see positive images within their play equipment, during regular visits outside the home and through discussion. They are made to feel included as they are involved in daily family activities. For example, as they enjoy

talking about mutual family members and collecting children from school.

Children behave well. They learn to share and take turns through their play. They are co-operative and enjoy carrying out tasks of responsibility such as clearing away after snack time. Children are encouraged to display good manners and they respond positively to the childminder's clear expectations, praise and encouragement. This contributes towards building children's self esteem.

Children benefit from the childminder's good relationship with parents. She promotes effective communication between herself and parents. This includes written information about the setting which includes certificates, policies and procedures. There are daily opportunities to share information verbally and a written diary is completed for the youngest children. This provides an effective system to ensure children's individual needs are met and any additional needs are addressed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is studying towards an NVQ level 3 in child care and education, which develops her knowledge and understanding of various aspects of caring for children.

The appropriate organisation of the premises, resources and structure of the day leads to children being active in a safe environment. The children eat and rest as individual needs require and enjoy activities outside the home. However, the organisation of activities and the storage system for play equipment sometimes limits children's spontaneous choice. The regular visits to the childminders' toddler group means that children gain confidence with other familiar adults. Therefore, in the event of the childminder being unavailable due to sickness or holidays, the children settle more easily with an alternative childminder they already know.

Records and documentation are well organised and up to date. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and development of the children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

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

The last inspection recommended that the rotary washing line was made safe or inaccessible.

There is currently no rotary washing line, however when it is in place, the childminder ensures that it is not a risk to children's safety by covering it when not in use.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted.

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):

- increase the opportunities for children to choose activities for themselves, and that the younger children's development is well promoted, for example by using the Birth to three framework
- review the storage arrangements for the play equipment, so that children can access the range available more easily.

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