



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142205
Inspection date	18 May 2005
Inspector	Beverly Anne Self
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 1996. She lives with her husband and two children aged 13 and 11 years. They live in a semi-detached house in Shepton Mallet. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five and these children attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group on a regular basis and takes children to the local park. The family has no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are encouraged to make their own choices and through support from the childminder they begin to develop their independence and self confidence, for example, asking for a drink or snack. A well planned routine of the day allows children the opportunity to play outdoors, experiencing different levels of physical activity, such as playing on the slide or digging the garden.

Children learn about their personal hygiene through daily routines. They are aware of washing their hands after using the toilet, before snack and lunch times, and this helps them learn how to reduce the risk of infection. Children's emotional well being is recognised and a shared understanding is established between the parents and childminder. The children benefit from the childminder being familiar with their individual health needs, such as, allergies to certain foods. All records of accidents, medication and consent forms are complete and shared with parents, and this ensures children's health care needs are consistently met and respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have lots of space to play in a well maintained and welcoming environment. Areas are well organised for sleep, rest and play. This allows children to access a variety of activities and experience daily routines in safe surroundings.

Children use safe and suitable toys and equipment which are in good repair and conform to safety standards. The children safely self select from the toys and resources, which are stored at child height in the conservatory. There is sufficient equipment which is age appropriate and meets the developmental needs of all children. These are well organised and children are encouraged to help tidy up the toys before using others so that they won't trip over. This reflects the childminder's ability to assess risks and hazards to the children.

Children are well protected as the childminder is able to recognise the possible signs and symptoms of children at risk. With regard to child protection, she knows the procedures to follow and which personnel to contact and so helping to ensure the children's safety at all times.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children arrive and settle easily at the childminder's house. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. They relate well to the childminder and socialise together. Planned routines allow children to benefit from regular outings to toddler groups, the park and visits to the local shops, which allows them to experience the wider world.

Children sit playing alongside the childminder, and each is encouraged to become involved in the activity. They talk about the puzzles they are completing and are introduced to colours and animals. Early maths skills are developed through the recognition of size and fitting pieces together.

Supervised activities are provided for the children under three years. However, these are not specifically planned for the younger children. Younger children start to link words with actions, helped by the childminder always talking about what she is doing for example, putting toys away, preparing snacks and choosing things to play with.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children begin to develop an awareness of self and how they fit into their surroundings. Through conversation with the childminder, children learn about themselves, their similarities to others and their differences, for example, how one of the children can speak French. The childminder takes time to allow children to try out new experiences and is aware of children's achievements.

Children behave well and the childminder has worked with parents to show consistency when dealing with acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Children respond positively to this, showing respect and kindness to each other and the childminder.

Children make themselves at home and they settle easily into their routine and start to get involved in the activities set out. They are developing their confidence and learning to manage their own personal care. The childminder builds a partnership with the parents; this ensures the children feel confident about their carer and helps them to feel that they belong.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures children are well cared for, using her very good knowledge of child care and development. She has many years experience as a childminder and continues to attend training courses to further develop and up date her knowledge. She organises documentation so that it is a useful tool to share with parents. Regularly reviewed records and the discussion of children's progress, adds to the consistency of care. Required adult:child ratios and daily routines contribute to the children feeling settled and happy. Her provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder obtain written consent forms from parents. The childminder has improved this area of documentation, which promotes children's good health and safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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):

- gain further knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under three, for example through the use of the Birth to three framework

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