



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	155859
<b>Inspection date</b>	20 July 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Janet Butlin
<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 lives with her husband and one school-aged child in a detached house in the Preston area of Paignton. The childminder and her husband work as a team and have been registered as childminders since 2001 and can, between them, care for up to six children under the age of eight years. The registration does not include overnight care. Currently there is one child enrolled within this age group.

Minded children are mainly cared for downstairs and also have a dedicated playroom.

Children have the use of a garden with only supervised access to the fish pond. Family pets comprise a German Shepherd dog, rabbit, guinea pig, cockatiel and various fish.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about good hygiene as they wash their hands before and after meals and are protected from infection by the good standards maintained in the home, which is impeccably clean. They use only their own flannels and personal care items.

They enjoy a nutritious diet, tailored to meet their individual needs and are able to access a drink whenever they want one. Fresh fruit forms a significant part of the daily menu.

Children enjoy playing in the fresh air and going on trips where they can run and play to develop their muscles. They take healthy exercise regularly. This is in part due to the childminders membership of a group where she accompanies children on outdoor activities at least three times a week. They enjoy opportunities which help them to develop a healthy lifestyle.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a well organised, well set out environment which is secure.

They play with a suitable range of good quality resources and access them freely and easily. For example children choose their favourite puzzles and books whenever they want them and ask the childminder for additional resources to support role-play.

Their safety is protected by the rigorous supervision of the childminder. Potential hazards are continually monitored. This is an area that is being worked on all the time to reflect children's individual needs and stages, particularly as they grow older and more adventurous, for example in and around the interesting garden and when on outings. Children develop useful life-skills, such as an awareness of road safety, as the childminder makes this a priority.

Children are further protected by the childminder's sound understanding of child protection issues and her commitment to on-going training in this area.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good variety of worthwhile activities and they are well supported by the childminder who is genuinely interested in their progress.

A particularly strong element of this provision is the childminder's membership of a group which commits to taking children out at least three times a week to promote outdoor stimulation for youngsters. Children go, with the childminder and playmates in the care of other childminders, on trips to such places as the zoo, the beach, the fields or park in order to enjoy fresh air and develop their learning and well-being. Children observe nature in the garden, for example watching the development of pond-life and feeding the fish, under supervision. Children make good progress in their play and the childminder ensures that resources are available to provide appropriate challenge and maintain their interest. Very young children enjoy making connections as they operate electronic toys and being creative and imaginative as they investigate marble painting and develop role-play with dolls. They communicate confidently about their experiences.

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

The provision is good.

Children play with resources which promote their awareness of cultural and social diversity. Children's individual needs are known and respected and any special needs are supported. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure this is well fulfilled.

Children are well behaved and polite and consistent methods of behaviour management are used. They confidently demonstrate their toys and share, with pride, what they understand about the puzzle they have successfully completed. Very young children show consideration to adults, saying please and thank-you. Children's self esteem is promoted and positive behaviour reinforced by the childminder's consistent and appropriate strategies.

The regular exchange of information between parents and childminder ensures that children are cared for in accordance with their parents wishes. A helpful daily diary promotes continuity of care and helps ensure that children's individual needs are met.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children being cared for whom she provides care.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well-organised environment where all necessary documentation is in place. Secure systems of registration evidence that children are cared for in appropriate numbers and this underpins their safety. Close co-operative and consistent team working between the childminder and her husband provide children with a secure, well-balanced environment where they can enjoy their day.

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

Recommendations from the last inspection required the childminder to add to existing resources and update knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

There is a good range of resources to meet the needs of all ages of children. There is positive representation of social diversity in books, puzzles and games and this helps children to develop an understanding of equality of opportunity.

The childminder has increased her awareness of child protection issues and is due to attend further training in this area within the next few months. This will support children's safety.

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

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- continue to develop risk assessments to meet the individual needs of the children attending

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)