



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY335980
Inspection date	11 January 2007
Inspector	Claire Sheldrake
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 satisfactory. 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 2006. She lives with her partner and four children aged 13, 11, seven and two years of age. They live in a three bedroom semi-detached house in Street, Somerset. The lounge and dining room are to be used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed hard core area for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time, and she is currently caring for two children under five years, part time.

She 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 learning about managing their own hygiene procedures through their daily routine. They regularly wash their hands before eating and after using the bathroom. The childminder ensures that there is no risk of cross infection after changing nappies, as she washes her own hands afterwards and uses an anti bacterial spray to wipe down the changing mat.

The children have their dietary needs met. The childminder sits the children to the table to have a healthy snack of yoghurt and a biscuit, during this time the children are encouraged to feed themselves. The childminder checks the children's lunchboxes in the morning and removes any perishable items, which she stores appropriately in the fridge until lunchtime. The children are regularly offered drinks and these are given in appropriate cups.

The childminder ensures that children are given appropriate care if they are ill. She is clear that she contacts parents to collect their child as soon as it is possible.

The children receive suitable care in the event of an accident. The childminder is trained in first aid and has filled out accident and medication records correctly. She has not obtained written consent from parents however, to give her permission to act in the best interests of the child in the event of an emergency.

Children have the opportunity to experience physical play when they go on trips to the local park and playing in the garden and regularly socialise with others at the local toddler groups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where the childminder shows a sound knowledge of minimising risks to children. The front door is kept locked and the childminder carries the keys with her on a chain in her pocket at all times.

She ensures that children are not at risk of infection by regularly cleaning surfaces such as the tray on the high chair and washes all the toys with anti bacterial sprays. She makes sure that all the children's toys are age appropriate and do not contain small pieces for babies to put in their mouths.

The childminder has protected children from fire. She has a fire guard in the lounge and has smoke alarms on each floor and a fire blanket in the kitchen. She has also prepared an emergency plan so that the children remain safe if something should happen to her.

The children are kept safe on outings, using suitable buggies and reins. They are transported in the car using appropriate car restraints, although written permission for this has not yet been obtained.

The childminder ensures that the children's welfare is safe guarded, through her understanding of child protection procedures and her confidence in her role to report any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

On arrival the children are quick to settle in and begin to explore the toys. They are confident and make choices from the toys, displayed attractively on the shelves and in boxes around the room.

The children delight in the ball tower. They are excited at making the lights flash and hearing the noises as the balls reach the bottom. They are keen to repeat this, and are happy to take turns.

The resources that the childminder has available are colourful, plentiful and clean. There are toys for all age groups from baby shape sorters to games and puzzles for older children.

The childminder sits on the floor with the children engaging them in conversation. She asks them questions and listens for their answers. She is interested in what they are playing with and is conscious of offering help, allowing all the children to feel involved.

The children are learning about taking responsibility for their toys. They are familiar with the routine of tidying up and the childminder makes this a game, which encourages them all to help.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has taken time to display the children's art work on the doors and walls of her home. This develops a sense of children's belonging and a pride in their achievements. She knows the children well, and takes into consideration their likes and dislikes, and helps them to learn how to play together co-operatively and to share.

The children are learning about their local community, they socialise with other children at the local toddler group and other outings.

Children with special needs are offered appropriate care and the childminder works in partnership with parents and carers to ensure all the needs of the children are met. Any information given to her about a child remains confidential and their records are stored securely.

Children are beginning to understand how to behave, the children are encouraged to use good manners when asking for things and are helped to learn how to share. The childminder carefully distracts the children, by re-introducing a favourite toy, diffusing the situation before it becomes a conflict.

The childminder works in partnership with parents, and regularly talks to them about their child's day. This is not backed up with sufficient documentation, to cover consent forms, and a complaints procedure. Not having a complaints procedure or record is a breach of regulation.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her home well to allow the children a safe environment in which to play and learn. She spends time in both of her downstairs rooms and allows the children to go between each. This encourages their independence and confidence whilst also being supervised.

The childminder holds an Nursery nursing qualification and is trained in first aid. She is also keen to improve her skills by attending further training courses and workshops. She displays her registration certificate in the hall for parents to see.

Some documentation and consents are in place to ensure that children are looked after according to their parents' wishes, however these are not complete for all children.

The childminder ensures that suitable adult to child ratios are maintained at all times and this supports children's care and well being.

Her childminding provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration, there have been no complaints made to Ofsted, that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- gain written parental permission, to the seeking of emergency medical treatment or advice
- ensure parents give written permission for their child to be transported in a vehicle
- develop a written complaints procedure which includes the Ofsted address and telephone number, and keep a record of any complaints made about you.

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