

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346138
Inspection date	30 April 2007
Inspector	Michelle Tuck
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 registered in 2007. She lives with her two children aged seven and eight years. They live in a house on a residential estate in Ilminster, Somerset. Childminding takes place mainly on the ground floor, with access to a first floor bathroom and sleep room. Children also have access to a rear enclosed paved garden.

The childminder is registered to care for four children under eight years of age. There are currently seven children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of maintaining children's health. She has effective procedures in place to prevent cross infection. For example, children use individual towels after washing their hands. Children learn about personal hygiene as they are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. Accidents and the administration of medication are recorded appropriately and children's health records are kept up to date. The childminder

is well prepared to respond to emergencies as she has the necessary parental consent, emergency contact numbers, and holds a current first aid certificate.

Children benefit from a diet that is healthy, nutritious and agreed with parents; they enjoy healthy snacks including fruit. The childminder uses effective strategies to encourage children to try foods that are good for them. For example, they use magnets in the shape of different fruit and vegetables to choose which foods they would like to try. Children's individual needs are met by obtaining information of children's dietary requirements.

Children enjoy a varied range of activities in a clean home which contributes to their good health and development. They benefit from the many opportunities in and outdoors that help them develop co-ordination and control of their bodies. For example, in the garden children develop their large muscle skills, as they play and run. Inside children develop small muscles as they use a wide range of resources such as scissors and tools in the dough. The childminder recognises the benefits of daily exercise for children. They take part in regular visits to the park which improves children's physical skills and well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a child centred environment. Children experience minimal hazards when playing within the childminder's home, due to the good safety and security precautions that are in place. The doors are locked to ensure children cannot leave unsupervised. The front door key is left in the lock, however an additional key is stored nearby out of children's reach. The childminder supervises children well, and is safety conscious when she takes children out. For example, children are encouraged to walk in pairs or hold onto the pushchair. Children learn what to do in the event of an emergency. The emergency evacuation procedure is discussed and a plan of the house has been drawn to identify the exits and telephone points. Babies are regularly checked when sleeping on the first floor to ensure they are safe and smoke detectors on each level are maintained in working order to further protect children.

Children are well protected due to the childminder's good knowledge of child protection procedures. She understands her responsibility with regards to safeguarding children from harm. Parents are well informed of this through her written policy.

Children have easy access to a wide range of safe and suitable toys and resources. For example, age appropriate toys are regularly rotated and promoted by the childminder to stimulate children. Older children can also help themselves to a variety of craft materials within this very child friendly home.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and nurtured in the childminder's home; they happily explore the interesting range of activities offered to them. Children benefit from the wide range of resources provided that meet their interests and developmental needs. They particularly enjoy the wide selection of creative activities they are offered, for example, painting and modelling with dough. This stimulates their imagination and develops their creative skills. Babies are well cared for. The childminder holds a baby close while she feeds her a bottle, she is quick to recognise when she becomes tired and sings her a song to settle her to sleep.

The childminder has some knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework and good knowledge of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Her verbal intervention ensures that young children become skilful communicators. She has a good understanding of child development and how to ensure their care and welfare is promoted. The childminder builds close and caring relationships with children, which increases their sense of trust and helps them develop a strong sense of self. Children socialise with others outside the home which helps to develop their confidence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed and play a full part in their time spent with the childminder because she respects each child's individuality. Children's routines are maintained as agreed with parents. She obtains information regarding their care and preferences to ensure their needs are met and they feel happy in her care, for example, what sort of food children prefer.

The childminder has a positive attitude to supporting children with learning difficulties and is experienced in this area. Children learn about all people in society as the childminder offers books, resources and activities that promote positive images of race, culture and gender. Children that speak English as an additional language are made to feel at home through the labelling of resources in their language.

Children respond well to the childminder's positive approach to behaviour management; she is calm and consistent and praises their achievements at every opportunity. This develops their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder is firm but fair, she makes her expectations clear and is a positive role to the children in her care.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Effective communication takes place between the childminder and parents as they work together to meet the children's individual needs. Parents are provided with a full range of policies and procedures that support the childminder's good practice; this includes how to make a complaint. All necessary consent forms are signed by parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is well trained and experienced to care for children. Children benefit from her commitment to improving her knowledge and understanding of child care through attending training. For example, since registration she has sought information on the Birth to three matters framework, and completed a first aid course.

Children's health, safety and welfare are ensured as all aspects of the childminder's care are well organised. The environment and resources are welcoming and well planned so that children can move around independently and make choices. Activities are loosely planned to ensure flexibility and play is child-initiated. Children get a wide range of play experiences and are well stimulated. Documentation is maintained well and it is all stored in a confidential manner.

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 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):

- ensure the front door is locked and the key kept out of reach to children.

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