

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY277912
Inspection date	11 July 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 has been registered since January 2004. She lives with her husband and eight children. They live in an end of terrace house on the edge of Ilminster, which is within walking distance of schools and pre-schools.

Children have use of the ground floor where toilet and sleeping facilities are provided. There is a fully enclosed front garden which is maintained as a play area. The childminder is registered to care for five children under eight years, of whom three may be under five, including one under one at any one time. There are currently 12 children on roll.

The family have a dog, and a tortoise to which the children have supervised access.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has a strong knowledge of how to keep the children in her care free from illness and cross-infection, as through a regular routine, she keeps her home clean and tidy.

The children are taught about personal hygiene and about the importance of keeping their hands free from germs, particularly before eating their lunch or a snack. Individual paper towels are available for the drying of hands, to help prevent the spread of infection. The childminder has good knowledge about first aid, all accidents are recorded and shared with parents, so they are aware about any injury to their child. However a couple of entries in the accident book have not been countersigned by parents and parents do not always initial medication entries to indicate they have been informed of the medication given.

Children have the benefit of eating with their friends at a kitchen table, with the younger children joining them with the use of highchairs, aiding their social skills and vocabulary. Fresh drinking water is readily available to prevent the children from becoming thirsty, this is easily accessed by children as cups are stored at their height. The childminder and parents work in partnership, sharing relevant information, for example, about any food allergies or intolerances the children have, so they are protected. Children benefit from healthy options provided by their parent and supplemented by the childminder when necessary. Children's physical development is well promoted by the childminder with outdoor walks, and lots of fresh air and exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are able to access an extensive range of good quality toys and resources independently and safely due to the effective organisation of the playroom. Toys containing small pieces are safely stored out of reach for supervised access at designated times. For example, a three year old wanted to make a necklace, so the childminder talks to her about making it later when the baby is having a sleep. Children understand these rules and accept them due to the excellent discussion that takes place to increase their knowledge on keeping themselves safe.

Children learn about fire safety through discussions and practise emergency evacuation procedures with the childminder on a regular basis. Fire drills are displayed for older children to be familiar with and proactive in the evacuation.

Children are safe whilst in the garden as all hazards have been risk assessed and addressed. For example, there is matting down on the ground to make a softer surface, and a gate is secured to ensure children stay in the designated outside area. Children are safe whilst on outings, the childminder talks to children about what they should do if they became lost and uses reins and wrist restraints if necessary. Children are learning to keep themselves safe when they are out as they know the rules and abide by these.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is knowledgeable about child protection issues. She is knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of abuse, and is confident of who to contact should she be concerned about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are extremely happy and settled at the childminder's. They are confident and thrive on positive relationships with the childminder. For example, they interact and have fun with her and seek her out for cuddles and stories. The childminder gives children choices about their play activities and meets individual needs exceptionally well. Younger children choose to play with the dolls and small world activities, whilst a baby wanders about babbling to himself. All

children are effectively engaged in their own activities with excellent interaction to support their learning. For example, the childminder asks the children lots of open ended questions, encourages them to problem solve for themselves and develops their language skills. Children are challenged according to their individual age and stage of development through the childminder's skilful deployment. She talks to children at their level, giving them praise and encouragement to motivate and stimulate them whilst her attention is shared between them all. She competently manages the needs of three children under the age of five years at one time.

Children have a vast range of experiences in the care of the childminder, they play with play dough, gloop, explore sand and water play and enjoy cutting and sticking. Children that attend after school are given the opportunity to partake in activities, or if they prefer they can relax and unwind after a busy day. Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework, which is used as a reference for ideas and recording of children's progress and achievements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are valued as individuals. Their individual needs are extremely well met. They display high levels of confidence and self-esteem in the childminder's home. The children are confident and relaxed with the childminder and regularly approach her for cuddles. Children learn about other peoples differences through playing with an excellent range of resources which provide positive images. For example, the children listen to a 'Topsy and Tim' story about a child in a wheelchair. The childminder has ethnic dolls and musical instruments from different parts of the world. There are no children attending with learning disabilities or difficulties, however, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of her responsibility to ensure she can meet their needs.

Children are extremely polite and well-behaved. The childminder provides an exemplary role model, she's calm and caring, and has high expectations of children's behaviour. Children respond well to her consistent, fair methods of behaviour management.

Children benefit from the excellent relationships and partnership the childminder has with their parents and carers. Good discussions with parents and well documented information supports the childminder in providing good-quality care, and ensuring parents wishes are respected. The excellent exchange of both written and verbal information on a daily basis ensures children's needs are met. For example, each child has their own folder celebrating each child. This is filled with photographs and examples of what each child has done. Parents receive a parents handbook about the childminder and her provision, and each child has a daily diary which is shared with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is well organised and is competent to care for young children, having accurate knowledge about child development, so is able to enhance the children's progress and development. She keeps an effective attendance register, which records the children's time of arrival and departure, so they are accounted for in an emergency. All records and documentation are readily available

for inspection and are retained for a reasonable period of time, so historical records can be checked.

The childminder displays her registration certificate, keeps evidence of household members' suitability and her own training on file as evidence of her ongoing suitability.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, especially regarding procedures for allegations made against the carer. The childminder has updated her knowledge of child protection. She is confident of her responsibilities and knows who to contact if concerned about a child in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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

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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 all entries in the accident book and the medication record are fully completed.

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