

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY272468
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 September 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Sara Bailey
<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 registered in 2003. She lives with her husband in the centre of Taunton, Somerset. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the first floor for bathroom facilities and sleeping children in the back bedroom. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play. The family has one cat. There are currently six children under eight years on roll. The childminder supports children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association, Somerset Childminding Association and Taunton Deane childminders. She has recently completed her Developing Childminding Practice and Extended Childminding Practice training in 2007.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted through the childminder's established routines. For example, children are assisted and reminded of the importance of washing their hands after using the toilet. They use liquid soap and individual towels to prevent the risk of cross infection. All

accident and medication records are accurate and countersigned by parents. The childminder regularly updates her first aid training and has a comprehensive first aid kit readily available to deal with minor accidents.

Children have their individual dietary requirements met through parents providing lunchboxes and food to be reheated. The childminder is very aware of children's likes and dislikes and meets their individual needs with snacks she provides. Healthy eating is promoted and drinks are readily available at all times.

Children have lots of opportunities to be active. They play outside in all weather, both in the garden and on visits to the park. Children enjoy playing on wheeled toys, feeding the ducks, visiting ball parks and inside play areas where they can develop their physical skills. Children have many opportunities to walk and be in the fresh air. There is also a spacious inside area for them to lie on the floor as they play with cars and train tracks.

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

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe in the childminder's home because of the measures she has put in place to reduce hazards and the good levels of supervision. For example, safety catches prevent children accessing dangerous substances in the kitchen and a fire blanket and extinguisher are wall mounted and easily accessible. Children are well supervised when using the bathroom. There are bubble baths and shampoos within reach of children, however younger children are accompanied to the bathroom and older children are monitored from a distance to allow them to feel independent, therefore the risk to children is minimal. A low window in the bedroom used to sleep babies is closed and locked when in use but open at other times. This is a potential risk to young children on the way to the bathroom. However, usually the bedroom door is kept closed to prevent children wandering and children are well supervised.

Children can easily access a wide range of quality toys both inside and outside, with help from the childminder. Toys are regularly rotated and cleaned. Baby equipment is in good condition to ensure they are safe.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is knowledgeable about all aspects of child protection. She has completed training and has the latest information to refer to in the event of being concerned about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled at the childminder's. They form positive relationships with the childminder, talking about how much they care for her and vice-versa. Children are well supported in their play. For example, the childminder plays with the children in all they do and interacts effectively, asking questions and encouraging them to problem solve. Children learn how to share and take turns in their play.

Children have fun at the childminder's through a wide variety of activities and outings. At home they enjoy cookery and messy craft activities such as painting, vegetable printing and caring for plants. Examples of children's art work are dated and filed to show their progress whilst at the childminder's. Children make dens, explore with bubbles and torches. They visit local parks,

play centres, the beach and animal farms to extend their knowledge of the world and mix socially with other minded children.

Children benefit from the childminder's own creativity. For example, she has exciting ideas for craft, such as making colourful Elmer the elephant models out of plastic milk cartons. She has attended a variety of workshops to ensure activities are age appropriate. The Birth to three matters framework and the Foundation Stage curriculum are sometimes referred to in planning activities to meet individual needs. Children thoroughly enjoy looking at books and story boards made by the childminder. She has used photographs of herself and minded children to tell an exciting story; she uses different textures to make texture books and Velcro pictures to bring favourite rhymes alive.

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about diversity through their play and resources. For example, the childminder has made a book with pictures that promote different cultures and disabilities. Boys and girls have equal opportunities and access to resources. For example, boys play with dolls and pushchairs and girls enjoy easy access to cars and trains. The childminder supports children who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities and those who speak English as an additional language.

Children are very well behaved and show respect for each other and their belongings. The childminder encourages children to be involved in packing away their toys. They are encouraged to keep toys in certain places, share and take turns. The childminder reminds children of how to show kindness to each other and praises them for their achievements.

Children benefit from positive partnerships between the childminder and their parents. For example, the childminder gives all parents a comprehensive, well presented prospectus and copies of all policies. The childminder is very flexible in her approach, to accommodate parents' wishes and individual needs are respected. Children's progress and development is shared with parents through discussion and use of photographs with captions.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation of time, space and resources. For example, designated areas of the home are used for different activities. The garden is sectioned off by a secure gate to ensure children stay near to the house if she is popping in and out to check sleeping babies. The whole garden is used when the childminder feels able to fully supervise. However, children are at risk of accessing potentially harmful substances such as shampoos and bubble baths and a low open window when independently using the bathroom facilities on the first floor. The childminder ensures children have regular outings and time spent at home with toys being rotated to ensure they continue to be stimulated.

Most documentation is clear, accurate and professional. The prospectus and policies are particularly well written and presented. However, the attendance register was not completed on the morning of the inspection due to an oversight, although it is normally kept up to date. The registration certificate is clearly displayed and evidence of household members suitability is held on file.

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

At the last care inspection in 2004 it was agreed to address one recommendation in relation to the childminder improving her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. This has been addressed effectively. The childminder completed a four day training course in February 2006. She is confident about signs and procedures in the event of being concerned about a child. She has the latest Local Safeguarding Children's Board information to refer to and has a written child protection policy that is shared with parents. This ensures that children's welfare is safeguarded.

### **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**

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 children are protected from potentially harmful substances, such as shampoos, and the low window in the bedroom
- ensure attendance registers are accurately maintained at all times.

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