

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY274216
Inspection date 12 November 2007
Inspector Elaine Douglas

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 was registered in 2003. She lives with her five year old daughter. They live in a mid-terraced house in the Trinity fields area of Bridgwater. The whole of the downstairs is available for childminding; consisting of a sitting room, kitchen with dining area and toilet. The childminder's daughter's bedroom is used for children sleeping in a travel cot. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding four children under five and four children over five, all of whom are part time. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has two cats as pets. The childminder is working towards a level 3 qualification. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is enhanced by regular opportunities to play outside and walk to the school. They develop large muscle skills from using the equipment in the local park and are dressed appropriately for the weather. Children develop good practices to keep themselves healthy through their daily routines. For example, they are able to help themselves to their own drinks, younger children recognise their own beakers and older children are able to use the fresh water tap on the fridge; which encourages them to drink more. Children are able to help themselves to tissues and are sensitively supported in learning to blow their own nose. Most parents provide their children's food and the children are encouraged to select a fruit for their snack. Children of all ages wash their hands before eating and are provided with liquid soap and their own individual towels. The childminder skilfully includes good practices into the children's games. For example, she reminds them to pretend to wash their hands before making ice cream in their role play.

Children's health is protected by generally good standards of hygiene. They play in clean, well heated and ventilated premises. The changing mat is cleaned after every use, nappies are disposed of effectively, and babies and toddlers hands are cleaned. However, the childminder does not wear gloves or thoroughly wash her hands to prevent cross contamination. The childminder holds a current first aid qualification and has a good supply of first aid equipment, which is easily accessible. All necessary documentation for accidents and medication are in place. However, consent for emergency advice or treatment has not been sought from one parent, so their children are not protected in an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept safe through very good supervision and security. The childminder makes thorough checks on visitors identification before allowing access to the premises. Good systems ensure that children only leave the premises with a suitable adult. Older children gain a good understanding of the clear fire safety procedures, which are practised regularly. Written procedures are displayed with a map of the house indicating fire equipment and emergency exits. Children travel in vehicles safely in the appropriate seats and most parents have given consent for their children to be transported. However, the childminder does not have consent for two of the children.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised through the childminder's good understanding of needing to reduce risks while allowing children independence for development. Children have free access to the lounge and kitchen, and older children are able to access the toilet independently. Booster seats and highchairs allow children to sit safely at the kitchen table, electric sockets are covered and dangerous items are made inaccessible. Younger children sit safely at child sized tables and chairs. Children access a wide range of developmentally appropriate toys and resources, which are effectively organised into boxes according to age and ability.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder's sound knowledge of signs and symptoms to look for with regard to child protection. She has good documentation to provide her with

further guidance and has a good understanding of confidentiality. However, she is unsure of the Local Safeguarding Children Board guidance on reporting concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very confident to make their own choices and express their own needs. They benefit from the childminder having attended Birth to three matters framework training and using her knowledge as a guidance. The childminder provides good interaction encouraging the children's communication skills and extending their knowledge. For example, when one child notices a sunflower the childminder talks about the bees and birds liking the seeds.

Children regularly take part in creative activities, such as play-dough, cooking, and art and craft. They enjoy the warm interaction they receive from the childminder and happily approach her to read to them or join their game. They engage in good role play pretending to clean the Playhouse and sweep the floors with a dustpan and brush. Children enjoy using programmable toys and explore them to find out how they work. At appropriate times of the year they grow their own strawberries and sunflowers, and learn how to take care of them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy, relaxed and confident in the environment. They build good relationships with the childminder and are beginning to understand the expectations on their behaviour; the childminder reinforces positive behaviour and gives good explanations as to why some behaviour may be dangerous or unkind. Their self-esteem is boosted as the childminder provides equipment for the children to stick their pictures on her doors.

Children's individual needs are well met as the childminder seeks information from parents and gets to know the children well through close observation. Diaries are used to exchange information with parents of young babies and all parents receive daily verbal feedback. The Ofsted poster for parents is displayed and a written complaints procedure is made available to parents.

Children learn about people's differences through access to good resources, such as cultural people, books and puzzles, skin tone crayons and small world toys. The childminder has a good equal opportunities policy and is aware of working in partnership with parents to meet the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is effectively promoted through the good organisation of the childminder's time and premises; she is currently reorganising her documentation to ensure it is all available, accessible and relevant. Good written policies are reviewed regularly and shared with parents to ensure consistency.

Children benefit from the childminder using the toy library for extra resources and attending local groups. She meets up with other childminders and they organise additional activities, for example learning the Green Cross Code. The childminder has started her National Vocational Qualification 3 to extend her knowledge and understanding of childcare, and is aware of the

new Early Years Foundation Stage framework. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the children play safely outside with regard to splintered wood on the fence.

Since that inspection the new fence has become weathered. The small flower border provides a barrier to the fence in most areas. This helps to ensure that children do not access the fence and the risk of splinters is minimised.

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 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 nappy changing procedures protect children from cross contamination
- ensure parental consent for emergency advice or treatment is sought for all children
- ensure parental consent to transport children is sought from all parents
- increase knowledge of Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines

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