

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY355783  
**Inspection date** 08 November 2007  
**Inspector** Rachael Williams

**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](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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her husband and daughter. They live in a terraced house in Taunton, Somerset. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, which includes kitchen/dining room and lounge, and the daughter's bedroom for sleeping purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family care for a cat.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. At present, she cares for two children. She regularly attends local toddler groups throughout the week.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is a committee member of the Somerset Childminding Association. She receives support from the local authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The childminder is effective in ensuring children's health and well-being. She has extremely high standards of hygiene to protect children from the spread of infection and encourages

children to learn good self-care skills to promote good hygiene. For example, children are protected as they are aware of washing their hands before eating. They access the toilet facilities independently and use liquid soap to wash their hands. Separate towels, which are washed daily, prevent the spread of infection. Very hygienic nappy changing arrangements further support children's well-being as infection is minimised. Consequently, these thorough systems provide children with a clean, hygienic and well maintained environment.

There are clear and well-documented pet arrangements to ensure children are cared for in a hygienic environment, for instance hands are washed after stroking the cat and the outside area is checked before children use it for their outside play. There are thorough systems in place to ensure that parents are well informed of the childminder's sick child policy which fully protect children from illness and infection. There are very good arrangements to ensure medication is administered appropriately and that comprehensive accident records, which include existing injuries, are promptly shared with parents and monitored effectively to provide children with a safe environment.

Children are introduced to a healthy lifestyle. The childminder is aware of providing children with healthy and nutritious snacks, such as a selection of fruit, and works in partnership with parents to ensure children are provided with a healthy packed lunch. There are very good systems in place to encourage children to take drinks regularly as they can access their colour-coded drinking vessels independently. Children enjoy a range of flexible, well-planned activities which promote their physical well-being and development. There are frequent opportunities for children to have fresh air experiences, for instance regular walks and visits to the nearby park. Children develop their control and coordination skills well on a good range of resources within the garden, such as swings, slides, seesaw and ride on toys. Non mobile babies have similar experiences and through the well-organised play space they are able to 'cruise' confidently.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder's comprehensive understanding and knowledge of procedures ensures that children are safe and protected from harm. Children are closely supervised by a vigilant childminder who actively ensures children are protected from potential risks and hazards through consistently high monitoring of the provision. Children are gently reminded not to bounce on the settee as they may tumble. Security is paramount, for instance the childminder has ensured children cannot access the front door and first floor of the property through use of a stair gate.

Children are protected when on outings and excursions as the childminder has a stringent outings procedure, has obtained appropriate consent from parents and uses appropriate equipment, such as reins, to ensure children's ongoing safety. The childminder uses a card game to enhance children's understanding of road safety in an enjoyable game. Children are fully involved in fire drills and the childminder has established a comprehensive fire evacuation plan to secure children's well-being.

Children are provided with a warm and welcoming environment which meets their developmental needs. It is well organised and well equipped with an abundant range of high-quality toys and resources. Children are able to self select toys which interest them from low-level compartments.

The childminder has established a clear and informative child protection policy which she shares with parents. The childminder has excellent knowledge of child protection issues and has contact

details of appropriate organisations and extensive literature readily available to ensure children's well-being is safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children engage in a wide range of activities that support their progress and development. The childminder is aware of her need to provide children with stimulating activities to further encourage their attention spans. For example, she questions children as they play a card game and encourages them to observe and match the pictures. There is a good balance of activities, both planned and child initiated. The younger children are developing good understanding of playing cooperatively through the childminder's good interaction and support. For instance, after one balloon pops the childminder encourages the toddlers to pass the balloon to each other.

They squeal with delight at their achievements. The childminder makes good use of local toddler groups where children can enjoy craft activities and the opportunities to develop social skills with their peer group.

Children are progressing well because the childminder has a good understanding of their stage of development and interacts well with them to promote learning. For example, the young children are beginning to experiment with vocabulary as they find different ways to use their voices. A child confidently uses non-verbal communication to request that some music be put on so that she can dance. All the children are encouraged to be involved and respond in different ways using their voices and bodies to move freely to the music. The childminder intervenes and encourages the children to follow the actions.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's emotional well-being is supported effectively as the childminder develops close bonds with the children and responds well to their needs. Children are confident and settled and enjoy regular opportunities to cuddle up close. Daily routines follow familiar patterns which include regular sleeping and eating times to promote children's growth and development. Children are beginning to become aware of their local community as the childminder ensures regular visits, for instance to local toddler groups, soft play sessions and library trips. The toy library is used effectively to supplement the childminder's sufficient range of toys to reflect the diversity in our society.

The childminder has extremely positive views on all children being unique and valuing their individuality. She has very good knowledge of children's 'milestones' and monitors their progression effectively. She is fully committed to providing a fully inclusive environment to include all children. She is confident to identify and assess children's additional needs and adapt her provision, through regular liaison with parents and outside agencies, to fully support children's individual requirements.

Children behave very well as the childminder is developing good relationships with the children to ensure they are clear on expectations and boundaries within her home. Parents are well-informed of her behaviour management policy and this is discussed during a flexible settling in period. The childminder has good understanding of appropriate strategies to manage unacceptable behaviour. Children are regularly praised for their achievements.

Children's welfare is promoted exceptionally well through the good partnership with parents. There is a daily exchange of information which ensures consistency and that parents' wishes are adhered to. Parents are fully involved as they receive a wealth of information from the well-organised childminder. Daily diaries and a photo book ensure that there is a regular exchange of information for younger children regarding their routines.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is very proactive and involved in the community through her involvement on the committee for the Somerset Childminding Association. She continually updates her knowledge to improve her good childminding practices, for instance accessing training on the forthcoming Early Years Foundation Stage.

The children roam freely amongst the rooms of the ground floor of the homely environment as the childminder has maintained a hygienic and safe play space. The local environment is used well to provide children with additional experiences to encourage their understanding of the community. Children are closely supervised and ratios are maintained. However, the daily record does not consistently record accurate times of children's attendance.

Records are easily accessible, securely stored and confidentiality is maintained. Most regulatory documentation has been established which underpins the childminder's good practices. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she 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 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's daily attendance is accurately and consistently recorded.

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)