

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY358347
Inspection date	22 April 2008
Inspector	Mary Daniel
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 satisfactory. 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 August 2007. She lives with her husband and two-year-old daughter in a terraced house in Yeovil, Somerset. Minded children have use of a downstairs lounge and kitchen/diner, and an upstairs bathroom, toilet and two bedrooms. There is an enclosed garden at the back of the house for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children aged under eight years at any one time, and there are currently three children on roll. Overnight care is not included within the registration. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). There are no household pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is monitored appropriately through the documentation used. Clear formats are in place to record details of accidents and any necessary administration of medication. These are shared with parents and written acknowledgements are obtained, which contributes to children's continuity in care. Children are offered a variety of healthy foods, such as apples,

grapes, bananas and breadsticks for snacks, and sandwiches, jacket potatoes or soup for lunchtime meals. This helps them develop an awareness of foods that are good for them, although healthy eating is not actively promoted through play activities. Drinks are kept readily accessible and satisfactory procedures have been considered for managing babies' bottles.

Children are supported well in developing suitable hygiene routines. For example, they wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating their snack. Liquid soap, separate flannels and wet wipes are used, which helps to prevent the spread of infection. Toddlers sometimes have a picnic snack on the carpet, which they enjoy, but this practice does not always maintain effective hygiene. Younger children enjoy going to their toddler group, where they can use the ride on toys. They sometimes go to a nearby soft play centre, which enables them to run and jump safely. The childminder encourages children to dance and move to the music they hear on a television programme, and takes them for walks to the local parks, where they use the climbing equipment. Consequently, they are often able to be out in the fresh air and use up their energy, while having fun in their play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming home. They have room to stretch out on the floor to do some painting, or sit comfortably on the sofa to look through a book. Suitable equipment is available to meet the needs of younger children, such as highchairs, booster seats and a travel cot. A range of toys and games are provided that appear bright and inviting to children and are appropriate for all ages. For example, toddlers explore a colourful activity kitchen, and smile at the lights and noises made when the 'toast' pops up. Older children use the various craft materials to make a card or picture, and a variety of soft, hardback and paperback books are available. This allows children of all ages to enjoy the play activities provided.

Children's safety is promoted through the safety measures in place. For instance, stair gates are used to prevent unsupervised access to the kitchen or stairs. Socket covers, cupboard locks and a fireguard are fitted. Smoke alarms are fitted and checked regularly and the childminder has developed an emergency evacuation plan, which she practises with the children. This helps to minimize accidents. Regular risk assessments are completed and children are supervised well. However, risk assessments do not cover all aspects of garden safety, such as children's access to the areas where small pebbles are used as ground cover. The childminder has developed a clear safeguarding children policy and understands her responsibilities in supporting their welfare. Relevant written information is available to support the management of concerns, and any incidents are recorded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good variety of play activities, for example, younger children are effectively supported in developing their early mark making skills. They become absorbed in making a colourful rainbow pattern on a wipe off play mat, using easy to hold brushes and stampers. This supports the development of their coordination skills, exploration and awareness of colours. Children's language development is promoted well through daily general discussions and stories, which are aimed at their level of understanding. Children meet regularly with their friends at a toddler group, and enjoy playing together. This encourages their social skills and the formation of early peer relationships.

Children can easily access a good range of exciting toys and games, which effectively supports their freedom of choice in play. For instance, toddlers have fun as they press, push and turn the various cause-and-effect toys to make different animal noises or switch colourful lights on and off. They show interest in fitting the easy to hold 'triangle', 'square' and 'circle' bricks into the matching holes in a shape sorter. This helps them develop confidence as they 'achieve' in different ways and start to learn through their play. Older children enjoy trips to the park or spend time doing puzzles or craft activities. The childminder is aware of children's interests and is careful to provide sufficient variety in play to meet their concentration levels. Children are happy to go to the childminder for a cuddle and respond well to her friendly, reassuring approach. She cares for children well, discussing their individual routines with parents. This helps children settle easily and enjoy their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed and their individual needs respected. Their routines are discussed with parents and followed, which helps to give children a consistent approach and supports them in settling. All children are able to participate in activities at their level, and the childminder takes a positive approach to meeting any particular needs. Suitable behaviour management strategies, such as distraction, are used and age appropriate expectations are maintained. Children are encouraged in developing their own sense of right and wrong, for example, as they are praised for helping or being kind. This helps to boost their self-esteem.

Children are supported in their awareness of how others live through use of some play resources, such as books, puzzles or television programmes. This contributes to developing their understanding of differences within the world, but overall, these images are limited. Required written parental permissions are obtained, for example, for transporting children in vehicles, or administering sun cream, and parents are provided with clear information on the provision offered. Policies and procedures, such as safeguarding children or the complaints procedure, which are used to support the childminder's practice, are shared with parents. This promotes open communication with parents and encourages their involvement. Registration, insurance and first aid certificates are displayed, which helps to reassure parents in the care provided. As a result, children benefit from the relationships formed by the childminder with their parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children's routines are followed and their interests followed through the general organisation of the day. A balance of quiet and active times is provided as children explore the toys or join in a painting activity, sit quietly for a snack or a story or go to the park. This provides children with variety in their play and helps them to have fun. The childminder is aware of her registration responsibilities, which helps to promote children's well-being. For instance, she continues to attend relevant training and has completed a child-related first aid course, which helps her in managing any emergency situation. Clearly laid out policies and procedures have been developed which help to support the overall practice offered. Required paperwork is in place and stored securely, although children's individual records are not filed separately, which does not give full regard to confidentiality. Children's attendance is recorded, but the records do not always reflect the actual times of arrival and departure.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable: this is the first inspection since registration.

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 any complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain some 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 satisfactory. 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):

- further develop risk assessment systems to ensure children's safety, with particular regard to the garden area
- develop the provision of activities and resources to support children's awareness of diversity
- ensure accurate times of children's attendance are 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