



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY310665  
**Inspection date** 11 April 2006  
**Inspector** Jennifer Barton

**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 has been registered since 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 sons aged 8 and 9 years of age. They live in a semi detached house close to local amenities on the outskirts of the town of Yeovil in Somerset.

The childminder is registered to use the ground floor and the first floor with the exception of the main bedroom and office for childminding purposes. Children also have access to a fully enclosed rear garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 3 children aged under 5 years

of age. There are currently 3 children on roll attending on a part time basis.

The family have a dog as a pet.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the Local Authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a healthy and clean environment. Children's physical skills are developing well through participating in a variety of activities both indoors and outdoors. Children's physical development is supported well through daily walks and regular visits to the local park ensuring plenty access to fresh air which also contributes to their good health. Children benefit from a childminder who has a good understanding of healthy eating and provides nutritious and healthy snacks and cooked meals. Regular drinks are provided and children are learning to be aware of their own needs, as they access drinks when they are thirsty.

Children are protected well from sickness and contagious diseases through good procedures shared with parents. Children's wellbeing is protected through a childminder who has the appropriate first aid skills and completes accurate accident records. Appropriate medication records are in place but written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is not obtained.

Children learn good health and hygiene procedures through good routines such as, washing hands before handling food, after visits to the toilet and handling pets. Children have access to antibacterial hand wash and use individual towels to promote good health and hygiene.

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

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a safe environment where risks are identified and effectively minimised such as, using socket covers, stair gates and fire guards. Children's safety is also ensured through good procedures such as, installation of a carbon monoxide monitor and annual checks on the gas system by the appropriate authority. The childminder considers the age and ability of each child to ensure they have appropriate toys and equipment to keep them safe. A good range of suitable toys and equipment are well maintained and easily accessible to children. Space and storage of equipment is effectively organised so children can move safely and freely around the home. Children are learning to keep themselves safe through good procedures such as, not climbing on furniture and sitting appropriately on chairs. Children benefit from a childminder who has a good awareness of security and ensures children cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

Children are well protected from harm through the childminder's good understanding of child protection in line with the area child protection committee procedures. The childminder has clear procedures for evacuation in the case of fire and has an appropriately placed fire blanket and smoke detectors to ensure children's safety.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and busy in the childminders home. They enjoy a good range of toys and activities, planned both indoors and outdoors to help them develop in all areas. Children are able to easily access resources which develops their confidence and independence. Children benefit from a childminder who is fully engrossed in their play, she is interested in what children do and say, and interacts effectively to extend their learning. Children are excited when they use electronic equipment such as, the animal train and they are able to identify animals by their sounds. Children are encouraged to learn from everyday routines and situations that they participate in such as, preparing snacks and lunch. Children enjoy observing and discussing nature and the environment, they are able to feed the birds and watch the recycling vehicles.

Children are supported well through a childminder who has a good understanding of how children develop and of their individual needs. The childminder is using the framework for Birth to Three Matters effectively to involve younger children in activities such as, painting and cooking. Children have numerous opportunities to develop reading, writing and creative skills as they participate in a good selection of planned activities such as, arts and crafts in addition to the range of toys and equipment available.

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

The provision is good.

Children are respected and valued as individuals. All children are included in all activities and have access to all equipment and resources provided. Children's needs are met well through good routines that include outings, meals, sleep, quiet and active play. Children show care and concern for each other as they learn to share and are pleased to see one another when they arrive. Children become aware of different cultures and disabilities as they are reflected through stories and books, toys and equipment.

Children's development is enhanced by the childminders good relationship with parents. Good documentation and regular discussions ensure a consistent approach to the care of children. The childminder works hard to care for the children in accordance with parents wishes especially around their working patterns.

Children behave well, the childminder reinforces simple rules through gentle reminders and regularly praises and encourages children. Children respond well to the childminder and are happy and secure in her care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are relaxed and at home in the childminders environment. They benefit from a committed and enthusiastic childminder who is keen to increase her knowledge and skill through regular research and further training which enhances children's care and development. Children experience a good daily routine within an environment that is well organised. They access a good range of toys and equipment and benefit from regular individual attention.

Children's welfare, care and learning is promoted well through a good partnership with parents, procedures and documents. 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**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- obtain written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the

procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website:  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)