



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	104713
Inspection date	10 July 2006
Inspector	Jonathon Christopher White
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 1989. She lives with her husband and two children aged thirteen and one of adult age in Barnstable in Devon. Minded children have use of the large kitchen, dining area and conservatory. Two bedrooms are available upstairs for rest, or any overnight care. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She takes children to local parks and places of interest in the community.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding eight children on a full and part time basis, on different days throughout the week. The childminder has two cats, two gerbils, and a hamster as family pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA).

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are very well cared for in a clean, maintained home. They benefit from good hygiene practices implemented by the childminder. She promotes children's awareness about caring for their own personal hygiene. Children learn the importance of keeping healthy through established daily routines. Good procedures are followed to ensure the safe storage of medical products children may use. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate covering infants and young children.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. They have daily access to fresh fruit, and a varied selection of hot and cold snacks. Children are provided with drinks in adequate quantities for their needs throughout the day. Children's foods are properly prepared, nutritious and complies with their dietary requirements. Children are encouraged to drink regularly throughout the day, for example, the childminder is mindful to remind children to drink during hot weather and after vigorous exercise. Babies individual feeding routines are fully discussed with parents and wishes and needs followed by the childminder.

Children are able to keep themselves healthy by taking part in activities inside and outside the home. For example, they are able to extend their physical skills by playing in the garden, visiting parks and taking regular trips in the community.

Children gain confidence by using a good selection of large and small equipment in the home and garden area. Children enjoy plenty of fresh air as they walk together with the childminder to local schools to take and collect children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very well cared for in a safe well organised home. Rooms used by children are warm, welcoming and provide plenty of light and ventilation. Children have enough space to move freely and independently throughout the home. For example, toys and equipment are stored at children's levels so they can access them easily. Children can choose from a comprehensive range of toys and resources, which are within children's age ranges. Toys and resources are well maintained, of good quality and kept in a good state of repair.

Children enjoy a safe and secure environment, the childminder is vigilant and removes any possible hazards to protect children in her care. For example, she ensures children do not have too many resources out at one time avoiding tripping or any accidents. The premises are very secure and children are unable to leave unsupervised. Appropriate visual checks are completed daily by the childminder with regard to risk assessments inside and outside the home. The childminder takes appropriate action to ensure younger children are safe, for example, the use of suitable chairs and seats at meal times.

Children are kept safe the childminder has a good understanding and knowledge of the child protection procedures. She has the current publications, and is aware of any action to take should she have concerns about a child in her care. She would be confident to recognise any possible signs of abuse or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with an excellent selection of resources and experiences which supports their interest, development and learning. The childminder is able to extend children's learning by helping them understand simple letters, numbers and colours. For example, children are well supported with their colours and simple number recognition. Children benefit from a wide selection of interesting and well planned activities, which contributes to children's overall development.

Children gain opportunities to mix and socialise with other children and adults. They walk together to local playgroups or schools to take and collect other children. The childminder supports children very well she ensures all children are fully included in all activities provided. Children enjoy and look forward to playing in the garden and visits to the local park for physical activities, which contributes to their overall health and physical skills.

Children enjoy a wide variety of games and activities with the childminder. They are praised and encouraged in all their areas of play and learning. The childminder has started to use the Birth to three matters framework to support the care for under three's. Children are able to extend their communication skills as they listen to and play music tapes and look at books.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the childminder's home and are valued and treated as individuals. The childminder has a good understanding of activities and resources that promote diversity and equal opportunities. For example, children can freely access a good selection of books, puzzles and toys that reflect positive images. Children are able to learn about themselves and local community through daily walks, shopping trips and visits to the park.

The childminder has a sound understanding about the individual needs of children in her care. She is aware of the procedures to support parents and liaise with other outside agencies should this be necessary. There are no children attending at present with special needs. However, the childminder has completed a short course related to special needs.

Children know the boundaries for behaviour and they behave very well. Children respond well to the childminder's praise and guidance and they are happy and secure in her care. Simple house rules, such as being polite, and kind to one another are put into daily practice. The childminder is proactive and well organised to ensure children are interested and fully occupied throughout the day. Children's behaviour is very good as they help tidy away, and are well mannered.

Children are very well supported by the professional relationship that the childminder has with parents. Information is shared daily, verbally with parents. Parents always receive a warm welcome and any issues are discussed when children arrive at the childminder's home. Appropriate written agreements with parents and permission forms are in place. Daily verbal feedback keeps parents fully up to date with their child's activities and care provided by the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures children are closely supervised at all times inside and outside the home. Children are protected from persons who visit the home who have not been vetted. For example, children are closely supervised by the childminder at all times inside and outside the home.

Children enjoy playing in the warm welcoming home, which is comfortably furnished and carpeted. The childminder provides a relaxed family environment where children are settled and can play in safety. Children are very well motivated and are confident to select and choose their own toys and resources. Space is well organised and children can move freely between activities. Outdoor activities are provided in the garden or the local park. For example, children can play a variety of games and use the good range of equipment provided by the childminder.

The childminder keeps a very good standard of records on children in her care. Children's records are stored securely and confidentiality is maintained. Record systems clearly record the times of arrival and departure of all children. Children's records are updated regularly and shared appropriately with parents. However written information is not at present available to parents for babies and children under two years old. 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 all adults in the home complete a vetting procedure. All adults in the home have now completed the required documentation and are all suitable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- provide parents with written information about daily nappy changes and feeds, for babies and children under two years of age.

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