



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	141927
Inspection date	26 September 2005
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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1994. She lives with her husband in a modern detached house in the Bower Manor area of Bridgwater, Somerset. All areas of the property are used for childminding. The children mainly use the spacious lounge, kitchen and toilet facilities. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for three children at any one time and is currently minding two children, one of whom attends on a part-time basis; before and after school. The childminder collects children from the local school. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from illness by good procedures to exclude infectious children. They play in very clean premises. The first aid equipment is readily available and hygienically maintained, and the childminder has a current first aid qualification. This ensures that any accidents which occur are dealt with efficiently. Parents provide appropriate information on any necessary medication.

Children benefit from daily fresh air and exercise. The childminder ensures that they have appropriate clothing to keep them cool or warm and dry. Children regularly go to the park or use the garden to develop new skills such as playing cricket.

Children develop good health and hygiene practices through their daily routines. They wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Younger children are protected from cross-contamination by good nappy changing procedures. Children help themselves to drinks and use wipes to clean their hands. Children select satisfactory snacks from their lunch boxes which are provided by parents. The childminder actively discourages them from eating sweets. Any uneaten food is returned to parents to ensure children have sufficient to eat.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have ample space to play safely. Toys are stored securely and regularly changed for children to select from for themselves. Children use appropriate equipment such as, child size table and chairs, which allows them to sit safely for activities and meals. Toys and resources are well maintained.

Children are kept safe within the premises. The childminder carries out a satisfactory risk assessment and provides appropriate equipment according to the children's age and abilities. For example, younger children sleep safely in a travel cot. All sleeping children are regularly checked by the childminder. Satisfactory procedures keep children safe on outings. Parents give written consent for children to be transported and appropriate car seats are used. However, the childminder's car insurance does not currently cover her for business use.

Children learn about the fire safety procedures and equipment, through discussions. Older children learn about the purpose of smoke alarms and how the fire blanket can be used.

Children's welfare is protected by the childminder's satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues. She has an adequate knowledge of signs and symptoms. However, her knowledge of reporting concerns is not in line with the area child protection guidelines.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and very interested in the activities provided. They play together well, selecting resources independently. Children benefit from the very good interaction from the childminder. Children under three years develop good communication skills as the childminder listens and responds well to them. They develop new skills as the childminder shows them how to operate a toy and then gives them good opportunities to practise for themselves. For example, she shows one child how to operate the crossing on the train set. She then indicates where he should sit to operate it. She supervises him while he tries and praises him when he succeeds.

Children's development is enhanced by good opportunities for quiet and active activities. Books are available for children to select for themselves or listen to stories with the childminder. Their creative development is encouraged by activities such as play dough, painting and drawing. Older children select from appropriate resources and engage the childminder in their own initiated play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's sound knowledge of their individual needs. They happily go off to sleep according to their needs and their parents' wishes. Appropriate discussions with parents ensures consistent management of children's behaviour. Children are constantly praised and confidently go to the childminder for help and reassurance. A warm and caring relationship with them provides a positive role model for them to learn to manage their own behaviour. They play well together and are polite. Older children learn about people's differences through some discussions. However, there are limited resources which provide positive images for children to use in their play and activities.

Children benefit from the childminders' positive relationship with their parents. She keeps them well-informed of any outings; daily discussions and suitable documentation ensure children receive consistent care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are satisfactorily cared for through the effective organisation of the childminder's premises and documentation. Daily routines are well organised overall to meet the individual needs of the children. Clear well-organised records support the childminder in providing appropriate care. Clear policies and procedures, some of which are written to share with parents, are effectively implemented to promote the welfare of children. However, the childminder does not currently have a system for recording medication, although she has not had to administer any. 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 agreed to keep the daily record of children's attendance with accurate times and to keep a written record of accidents and medicines signed by parents.

Since that inspection the childminder keeps an accurate up-to-date record of children's attendance. Exact times of arrival and departure are recorded which parents sign. This helps to safeguard children's welfare by providing documented evidence of who is responsible for their care.

The childminder has devised a system for recording any accident, however, there are no accidents recorded so far. This ensures that parents are informed of any accidents and the actions taken, to help them provide appropriate aftercare. There is still no system in place to record medication.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- ensure car insurance covers business use
- devise a system to record any medication administered
- increase resources and activities which promote equal opportunities and anti discriminatory practice
- increase knowledge of child protection issues with particular regard for the correct procedures for reporting concerns

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