



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	142675
Inspection date	25 May 2006
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and four children aged eight, six, two and 17 months. They live in a semi-detached house in a quiet cul-de-sac, in the small town of Somerton. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has guinea pigs, who live in a hutch in the garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum three children at any one time when working alone. She is currently minding three children under five part time, and seven children over five before and after school, of whom four are over eight years. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools.

The childminder attends a local carer and toddler group on a regular basis. She is a member of the Somerton Childminding Group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn some hygiene practices in their play and daily routines. For example, they wash their hands after touching animals, using the toilet and before eating. However, children share the same towel, which does not protect them from cross contamination. Children play in well heated and ventilated rooms, and the childminder asks children if they wish to remove their jumper when it gets warm. Effective systems ensure children receive appropriate medication and the childminder has had training in administering specialist equipment. Accidents are dealt with effectively, as the childminder has a current qualification in first aid and sufficient, sterile equipment is readily available. However, she has misplaced her records of accidents to children.

Children receive healthy snacks such as cheese and fruit. They are able to help themselves to their drink at any time. Some children bring a packed lunch and others are provided with a satisfactory range of hot meals. The childminder seeks information on any dietary requirements, to ensure children receive an appropriate diet.

Children's physical development is promoted through the younger children regularly attending a local toddler group, where they use equipment such as bikes and trampolines. Children sometimes walk to and from the local school. Children sleep, rest and are active, according to their individual needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to an appropriate range of equipment and resources. They can sit comfortably in child size chairs, and a large table is used for creative activities and to allow children to sit together. A separate playroom, which can be easily viewed from the kitchen, gives children sufficient space to play. Children can safely access the ground floor, while stair gates prevent the youngest children accessing the stairs unsupervised. The garden has now been made safe for children to use under supervision. A separate fenced area is available for the youngest children to play in, without risk of injury from the older children's games.

Children are kept sufficiently safe in the secure premises; the childminder has an appropriate method of ensuring they are only collected by an authorised adult. A fire blanket and smoke alarms are located appropriately on the ground floor. However, children's safety is compromised, as there is no smoke alarm on the first floor and the childminder has not practised the emergency evacuation procedures.

Children's welfare is adequately safeguarded by the childminder's acceptable knowledge of child protection issues and how to report concerns. However, she does not have any documentation to provide further guidance.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and confident in the childminder's home. They help themselves to resources and are confident in their relationship with the childminder to ask for more. Children enjoy a variety of activities, which are appropriate to their ages and stages of development. Children's creative skills are developed through drawing, art and craft, and imaginative play. Children enjoy completing puzzles and follow their own ideas, such as drawing around the pieces. They have good opportunities to make choices and the childminder makes suggestions to extend their play. For example, she suggests getting the cutters and rollers to use with the playdough. The childminder and her assistant support children in using equipment, by demonstrating its use and then allowing them to have a go for themselves. Children spend their time purposefully and their development is promoted through a good range of child initiated and adult led activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing an understanding of other people's differences through playing with some resources and regularly visiting local groups. Children's individual needs, including any special needs, are appropriately met, through the childminder seeking information from parents on how to provide appropriate care. Weekly discussions with parents, keep them informed of their child's daily routines and help promote continuity of care.

Children's behaviour is appropriately managed. Any significant incidents are discussed with parents. However, the childminder has no system to record any incidents or the actions agreed. Children receive praise and encouragement for their efforts, and are developing a good understanding of the expectations on their behaviour. Consequently, children are polite, and are beginning to share and take turns.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children receive appropriate care, in a well-organised environment, where space and resources are effectively used to provide a variety of play opportunities. The childminder and her assistant work directly with the children to support their development. The childminder has developed a new registration system, where she records accurate times of children's attendance to ensure she is meeting the conditions of her registration. Children's records are well organised, to support her in providing appropriate care. However, she has lost her records of accidents so they were unavailable for inspection, which is a regulation. 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 parents sign the medication record, to extend resources which reflect positive images, to develop methods of encouraging positive behaviour and to develop knowledge of child protection issues.

Since that inspection, the childminder has revised her system for recording medication and parents now sign to acknowledge they have been informed of the medication administered. This ensures that children only receive the correct dosage. The childminder has purchased a few resources, which provide positive images of culture, gender and disability. These include some small world toys depicting disabilities and a cultural doll. She is part of a networking group, who are planning on purchasing further resources to share. This will enable children to develop some awareness of people's differences. The childminder now encourages positive behaviour through giving children praise and encouraging them to share. Consequently, children are generally well-behaved. The childminder has some knowledge of child protection issues, she understands the correct procedures for reporting concerns, to safeguard children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted has received 1 complaint since April 2004. The complaint was received 7 March 2006 in relation to National Standard 2: Organisation. The complaint regarded exceeding registered numbers. We carried out an unannounced visit and an action was taken in line with our escalating tariff. The provider remains qualified for 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 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):

- provide appropriate hand washing equipment to prevent cross contamination
- maintain a smoke alarm on every level of the house and practise the emergency evacuation procedures
- obtain information on the Area Safeguarding Children Board's guidelines and contact numbers
- devise a system to record significant incidents
- ensure all records are confidentially maintained and available for inspection

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