



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY101475
Inspection date	10 July 2006
Inspector	Karyn Yarnold
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 2001. She lives with her husband and family in West Yelland, near to the town of Barnstaple, North Devon. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a garden for outside play. The childminder is currently has nine children on roll. The childminder has use of the family car and is able to drop off and collect children from the local pre-school and primary school. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park.

The childminder is a member of the Devon Childminding Association and the family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children know that they need to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet and are able to do this independently. The childminder adopts good regular cleaning routines around the home including cleaning down kitchen and bathroom surfaces with appropriate cleaning products prior to children attending. This practice helps to reduce the risk of cross infection. Children are cared for appropriately, overall, in the case of accidents as the childminder is aware of what to do in the event of an accident. Children's health needs are well met as the childminder records dietary needs and medication administered. However at the time of the inspection the childminder's first aid training was out of date. In the event of an accident children may not receive adequate care.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their good health and develops their physical skills. They have opportunities for regular walks and fresh air when they walk to the local, park and play in a local field. An appealing outside garden adds to children's ability to experience fresh air and exercise.

Children receive snacks and the childminder heats up pre-prepared food provided by parents. The childminder takes account of parental wishes and individual needs when providing snacks. Children can ask for a variety of healthy snacks that includes apples, bananas. They are offered filtered water, squash and sometimes fruit juice to drink. These snacks and drinks are presented attractively and provide children with a balance of food to promote their health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment with access to the whole of the ground floor, which means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. Children are protected from harm because the childminder ensures that safety measures are in place, including keeping safety gates at the entrance of the kitchen, when children attend, and by ensuring that small items such as beads and marbles are stored away from younger children. Cleaning products are stored out of reach of children and all fire and smoke protection equipment is in place. Safety aspects adopted in the rear garden, including restricting use of the outdoor trampoline, ensures that children are protected when playing outside.

Children are taken on regular walks and trips to the local park. Children are taught about road safety and younger children are encouraged to hold hands, or are restrained appropriately, in buggies to maintain their safety. Toileting facilities are good and story books left out in the toilet area allow children to take their time when going to the toilet. Adequate nappy changing facilities are adopted by the childminder. The childminder has devised a basic emergency escape plan, that is practised occasionally with children. Relevant documentation is kept, such as, up-to-date MOT and suitable car and public liability insurance is maintained. Parents give

appropriate permission for the childminder to transport children. These measures go towards keeping children safe.

Children have access to a varied choice of toys. Outdoor equipment includes a trampoline and swing. Children are offered a good selection of books including cloth books for babies. Equipment is in good condition and cleaned regularly. Children are offered a good selection of age related games and learn about counting when engaging in a snakes and ladders game.

Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection procedures. Her knowledge of signs and symptoms of possible abuse ensures that children are protected from harm. Relevant, local, reference materials support her in her undertaking regarding reporting and referral responsibilities. However at the time of the inspection the childminder was not familiar with, Government, child protection, reporting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well and enjoy playing together. They have opportunities to socialise with children of different ages and also attend local pre-school group which results in them being able to develop their social skills. Their progress and development is supported well because they have access to a wide range of interesting and challenging activities which include helping to peg out washing, making their own sandwiches, painting, jigsaw puzzles, small world play, counting and learning about shape, water play and listening to stories. Under threes benefit from the introduction of the Birth to three matters framework.

Children benefit from the warm relationship they have with the childminder, who cares for them in a very friendly and safety conscious environment. Children are able to take their art work home and are made to feel proud of their achievements. This raises their self-esteem. Their learning and development is supported well by the relaxed interaction of the childminder, who encourages children to learn new skills and offers appropriate age related activities to sustain children's interest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder gathers sufficient information about children when they first register with her. She knows the children well and has satisfactory procedures in place to help them settle. This ensures that children's individual needs are considered and they are able to feel comfortable in their own time. Satisfactory communication with parents supports the childminder in providing continuity of care. Children of similar ages play harmoniously together. Children learn about differences when playing with dolls that reflect difference. However, overall, the lack of display materials, puzzles, and role play materials that show differences means that children do not get to learn about other cultures sufficiently.

Children are aware of the childminder's expectations of behaviour and older children understand rules. Younger children's behaviour is skilfully managed by the childminder. By, for example,

offering younger children alternative toys to play with when older children select favourite toys and younger children find it hard to share. This provides children with an understanding of what behaviour is acceptable and to learn about sharing. Children's continuity of care is promoted satisfactorily by the relationship the childminder develops with parents. Information is exchanged informally and relevant paperwork is in place. This ensures that children are cared for in accordance with their parent's wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities and is suitably organised. Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder keeps necessary documentation and records relevant information on children, although this is basic. Confidentiality is maintained by the childminder ensuring that records are stored in a safe place at all times. Sufficient records are kept to record children's attendance. Parents receive sufficient information regarding the care and education of their children and are free to discuss issues.

Satisfactory organisation of available space ensures that children are able to move around and enjoy different activities. The quality of the children's play and learning experiences is enhanced by the childminder's attitude to caring for children. For example, children are free to make choices while in her care and the childminder is considering extending her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework. The childminder meets the needs of the range of the children whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has been required to establish a written agreement with parents, keep appropriate parental consent forms, and to obtain basic food hygiene training.

The childminder now provides parents with an adequately written agreement that sets out sufficient information to enable the childminder to contact parents in an emergency and retain information on children. Suitable consent slips are now in place and the childminder has successfully completed food hygiene training. These improvements ensure that parents can easily be contacted in an emergency, allow children to become involved in activities that require being transported in the childminders' car, and ensure that the childminder is aware of food hygiene procedures to adopt when preparing snacks. This protects children from cross infection.

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 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):

- become familiar with the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused - summary
- ensure children have access to a variety of resources that reflect different cultures and lifestyles
- ensure a current first aid certificate is maintained which includes training in first aid for infants and young children

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