



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY285725
Inspection date	25 October 2006
Inspector	Michelle Tuck

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 has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband, and three children aged 14, 11 and three. They live in a three bedroom end terrace house in Cotford St Luke near Taunton Somerset. She is registered to care for five children under the age of eight of whom two may be under five years. There are currently four children on roll.

Minded children have access to downstairs. This consists of a lounge, kitchen, and downstairs cloakroom. The master bedroom on the first floor is used for a sleeping child. There is also a secure outdoor area to the rear of the house which is used for outdoor play.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to keep themselves healthy through effective hand washing routines before eating. They independently access the sink and pump soap with the use of a step and use individual hand towels to help prevent the spread of infection. This is encouraged by the childminder who holds a valid first aid certificate and who provides a positive role model for children. For example, in assisting children with toileting and before preparing lunch she washes her hands thoroughly. Outdoor shoes are not worn inside to further promote children's health and well being.

Children's dietary requirements are met in partnership with parents who provide most food. The childminder promotes healthy eating through discussions with parents. The childminder ensures children can access drinking water at all times and provides drinks of water, milk and squash at meal times. However children's health is not fully promoted as parents' prior written consent has not been obtained for all administration of medication.

Children benefit from regular physical play in the garden or at the local parks. Children enjoy regular walks to and from school and pre-school and physical activities are organised inside when outdoor play is not possible, resulting in children's physical development being well promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They choose from a wide range of toys and resources, which are all clean, in good condition and well organised to give them free choice. Children are kept safe, due to the childminder's good supervision, the front door is locked; however the key is left in the lock.

Children's safety is effectively ensured on the daily walks to school and pre-school. The childminder talks to the children about crossing the road safely, and uses reins and wrist straps as appropriate. Children are protected in the event of a fire as an appropriate emergency evacuation procedure is in place. This has not been discussed or practised with the children, however they are all very young at present.

The childminder has a good understanding of all child protection issues and procedures, so is able to protect children appropriately.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are engaged in stimulating play appropriate to their age and stage of development. They enjoy playing with bright, good quality toys on the floor with the childminder. She effectively supports their play through good interaction. For example, the childminder repeats

key words back to the children, she talks with the children about colours, and offers a good range of stimulating and interesting activities.

Children are interested in some small figures dressed in national costume representing their country. The childminder looks at each one with the children and talks about the country where they come from. For example the childminder encourages the children to talk about the different colours of the costumes, and what colour hair each one has. One child asks what the spot on the forehead of the Indian figure is. The childminder explains it is called a Bindi.

Children enjoy a wide range of exciting activities such as craft, cookery and outside play. The childminder ensures children have a routine and structure to their day so they feel secure and confident to develop new skills; for example, children meet with other childminders and children on a regular basis to form friendships with their peers and experience different activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled at the childminder's. They are treated as one of the family and have positive relationships with the childminder and her own children. Minor disputes between the children are generally managed effectively, using distraction to diffuse the situation.

Children learn about diversity through a range of resources which reflect different cultures. Boys and girls have equal access to toys and activities to promote equality. Although no children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities currently attend, the childminder has good knowledge of child development and is knowledgeable about how to access information to help her meet children's additional needs.

Children benefit from the positive relationship between the childminder and their parents. They share information on a daily basis to ensure the children's individual needs are understood and met effectively. Journals are kept for all children detailing what they have done each day, this helps to ensure consistency with home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are at ease within the well-organised daily routine that takes account of individual needs. For example, sleep patterns, feeds and nappy changing, all of which are appropriately shared with parents.

Children benefit from the childminder's effective organisation. Her record keeping and documentation is clear, accurate and confidentially stored. Files are orderly and well presented. They include evidence of the childminder's training courses, suitability and appropriate details of the children attending. Her time is well organised with children participating and learning through everyday activities, playing at home and regular outings. Her registration certificate is clearly displayed for parents.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. All children are encouraged to access all resources and the childminder has increased her resources that depict positive images of different cultures.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- ensure written permission is always sought before the administration of medication
- ensure the front door is locked and the key kept nearby but out of reach to 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