



Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	104728
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 July 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Karyn Yarnold
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 has been registered since 2001. She lives with her family in Chivenor, in North Devon. The whole of the property is used for childminding with the exception of the adult main bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder has use of the family car and is able to drop off and collect children from the local school. The childminder is a member of the Devon Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean home where they learn about the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Children are made aware that they need to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. 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 in the case of accidents and their health needs are met as the childminder records dietary needs and medication administered and keeps her first aid training up-to-date. She is aware of the need to keep a suitably stocked first aid kit at all times.

Children enjoy a suitable range of activities, which contribute to their good health and develop their physical skills. They have opportunities for regular play time in the outdoor garden, play football in nearby playing fields and receive fresh air when walking the Tarka trail to feed ducks.

Children receive a satisfactory range of snacks and the childminder takes account of parental wishes and individual needs when offering these. Children are offered a good variety of healthy and nutritious snacks that include cherry tomatoes, apples and bananas, cucumber and vegetable sticks. Children are offered water and squash to sustain their thirst.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised and well maintained environment with access to the whole of the ground floor, and children's bedrooms on the first 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 medicines out of reach, using stair gates at the top and bottom of the stairs and ensuring that all fire prevention equipment is in place and in working order. However, at the time of the inspection the childminder had not devised or practised an emergency evacuation procedure.

Children are provided with a good range of toys which include soft toys, bowling alley, Lego, tea trolley, pushchairs, role play equipment, cars and planes and a selection of age related games and puzzles. These are in good condition and easily accessible to children. Their choices are monitored and supervised to ensure toys are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. A good range of large play equipment including a play house with slide ensures that children are exposed to a range of toys and equipment to develop their skills.

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.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children currently attend for a limited time before and after school and therefore opportunities for activities are restricted. There were no children present during the inspection. However, children who do attend, which includes school holiday times, have opportunities to paint, complete colouring activities, make snowflakes by tearing paper, and younger children can mingle with peers when attending local toddler groups. Older children play football and use chalk to mark out a hop scotch game.

Children learn about colours and shapes as well as the alphabet, number recognition and problem solving when using a TV learning system. They learn about weight when weighing fruit when visiting supermarkets. They learn about the natural world when gardening and about their wider community when walking the Tarka trail and going on outings to the beach.

Children can easily reach available toys and books which include information books on creepy crawlies, as well as story books.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that individual children's needs are met by gathering sufficient information about children when they first register with her. Satisfactory communication with parents supports the childminder in providing continuity of care. The childminder follows children's normal routine as discussed with parents by maintaining their routine attendance at school. Older children are involved in household activities.

Older children are able to choose what they would like to do and the childminder's flexibility ensures that children are offered a good range of challenging activities. For example, children are able to swim in the summer and visit local wildlife attractions.

Children are able to take their work home, which raises their self-esteem. They have access to a good range of role play materials. However, the lack of display materials, books, puzzles and resources that reflect diversity and give children positive role models of people like themselves and people different to themselves are limited. This results in a lack of opportunity for children to learn about difference.

The childminder has high expectations regarding behaviour and house rules, agreed with the children, ensuring children are aware of what behaviour is acceptable and what is not. Children's self-esteem is lifted when they get to choose a reward sticker for their achievements and good behaviour.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is aware of her responsibilities and is very well organised. Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder keeps all necessary documentation and records to meet National Standards. She is committed to improving her knowledge and understanding of childcare issues by setting herself goals for the future. Under three's will benefit from the introduction of the Birth to three framework that the childminder is planning to implement. Confidentiality is maintained by the childminder, ensuring that records are stored in a safe place at all times. Clear 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. The childminder has a sound understanding of her responsibilities regarding when to inform Ofsted of any significant event, such as, serious accidents or illnesses. The childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the childminder has been required to attend first aid training, record all significant incidents that parents sign, obtain written consent from parents to seek future medical advice or treatment and to provide resources for children that reflect the wider community in which they are growing up in.

The childminder now holds a current first aid certificate, uses pre-printed records regarding incidents, adequately obtains written permission to seek emergency medical advice and is continuing to develop resources to reflect the wider community. These measures help to promote children's welfare and keep them safe in the event of an accident or illness.

### **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):

- devise and practise an emergency escape plan
- ensure children have access to a range of resources and activities that reflect diversity.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)