



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315487
Inspection date	11 April 2006
Inspector	Hilary Elizabeth Tierney

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 lives in a 4-bedroom, detached property, that is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, in Hardwicke, near Gloucester. She shares her home with her husband and their 2 children aged 12 and 2 years. The whole house is used for minding, with the main care taking place on the ground floor which consists of a lounge, dining area, kitchen, downstairs toilet and enclosed rear garden. Local amenities within walking distance include a park, shops, library and schools.

The childminder may provide care for 5 children under 8 years of age. No overnight care is provided. The childminder currently cares for 1 children during the week.

The childminder has completed child protection training.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn and understand about satisfactory health and hygiene procedures. They are gently encouraged to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. The childminder provides separate towels and face flannels for the children.

There are clear procedures in place to ensure the spread of infection is minimised, children do not attend when ill and parents are contacted immediately if a child becomes ill when in the childminder's care. All carers emergency numbers are easily to hand. The childminder has not requested written parental permission to allow her to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for the children in her care. All necessary accident and medication books are in place. Although, at present these have not been used, the childminder demonstrated a suitable awareness about the necessary procedures she would use if she had to complete these.

Children are beginning to learn about healthy eating. The childminder tries to encourage them to eat fruit at snack time. Meals provided are in accordance with parents wishes and are suitable, balanced and varied. Drinks are on offer when the children require it, with cups easily available. The childminder has a suitable awareness about individual children's needs and demonstrates that she would cater accordingly should she have a child in her care that required a special diet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into a warm, friendly environment where they may play safely and confidently. There is a suitable range of toys and equipment that all children may access freely as they play. They are able to choose their own activities during the session with little direction from the childminder.

Children are safe whilst at the childminder's home. The childminder has put into place most precautions to reduce risks around the home, although the fire blanket was not unwrapped and in a suitable place for easy use. The childminder has clearly thought out emergency evacuation procedures in place, but has not attempted to practise these with the children as yet, because the children in her care have only been attending for a short time and she is allowing them to settle-in first.

Children are well protected. The childminder has completed child protection training and has a sound working knowledge of the correct procedures to follow in the event of having a concern about a child in her care. There are clear procedures in place to record any existing injuries to children and share these with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and have settled well during their short time with the childminder. They leave their parents confidently as they enter the childminder's home. Children greet each other with excitement and they start to play with the available toys quickly. There are satisfactory interactions between the children and childminder as they play. She gives them choices of what they can do and encourages them to make their own decisions.

Children may freely access the toys from the suitable range available. During the inspection the children were observed painting egg cups, the childminder encourages them to choose their own colours and allows them to paint the egg cups as messily as they want to. The children thoroughly enjoy this activity and get very messy with the paint, they then understand they need to wash their hands afterwards.

Routines and activities are not formally planned, as the childminder feels the children are still settling-in with her, and she is concentrating on ensuring the children are happy and settled with her. The childminder takes the children on daily walks to the canal to feed the ducks, to the park, and to visit other childminders.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are treated with equal care and concern. The childminder is calm and caring with them as they interact together. She encourages the children to make their own choices with regard to activities by asking them what they would like to do next. Children make their choices and the childminder helps when needed, but allows them to experiment for themselves first. The childminder understands the need to ensure children learn about the diversity within the community, and her toys and equipment reflect this, she also uses local resources such as the library.

Although the children have not been attending for a long time, they are beginning to understand the rules of the home. They are well behaved, sharing and taking turns as they play together. They are happy and interact well with each other and the childminder. The childminder uses praise and encouragement effectively as she interacts with the children and they respond with good behaviour. Behaviour management is shared with parents and they work closely together to ensure continuity between the childminder and home.

Children benefit from the satisfactory relationship that has developed between the parents and herself. Information is shared with them when they collect their child at the end of the session. Most written parental permissions are in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

All paperwork is easily to hand for the inspection. The registration certificate is displayed for parents.

Registers kept are clear, up-to-date and in order. Most written parental permissions are in place, except permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for children, outings and transporting the children in a vehicle. The childminder demonstrated a suitable understanding about the need to maintain confidentiality with all documentation relating to her business.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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):

- request written permission, from parents, to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.
- ensure written parental permission is obtained for transporting children in a vehicle and undertaking outings.
- ensure the fire blanket is situated in the kitchen and is able to be used easily.

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