



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	101011
Inspection date	22 May 2006
Inspector	Shirley Ann Jackson
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 has been registered since 1994. She lives with her husband and two adult children. They live in a detached, four bedroom house in a cul-de-sac in Brockworth on the outskirts of Gloucester. The whole of the ground floor and an upstairs bedroom are used for minding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have two pet dogs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding 11 children aged two to 14 years. The childminder takes and collects children from Castle Hill Primary School.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Appropriate procedures are followed for the administration of medication. Young children with colds are monitored and the childminder promptly ensures that runny noses are wiped as required.

Children do not develop an appropriate understanding of hygiene through established routines. For example, they are not routinely encouraged to wash their hands before eating snack. Children's health is not supported as the childminder does not hold a current first aid certificate. This poses a risk to children's health and well-being.

Children are offered regular drinks, snacks and meals in adequate quantities for their needs. Any meals provided by parents are stored appropriately. Meals and snacks provided by the childminder are reasonably healthy. The childminder takes account of parents wishes and the children's choices to provide snacks to meet their dietary needs.

Children walk to and from school each day. They also make occasional visits to a local park, taking the childminder's resources with them. This gives them the opportunity to enjoy fresh air and exercise. Children have occasional use of the garden where they can play on wheeled toys, bikes and with balls.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move freely and relatively safely within the childminder's home as most possible risks have been identified and minimised. However, not all unused sockets which are accessible to children are covered. This poses a risk to children's safety. Children's safety is promoted when outdoors and on outings through the childminder's use of suitable safety procedures. Children are aware of these and practise them on a daily basis on the walk to and from school.

Children choose some activities from a range of good quality resources which meet safety standards. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of resources to make sure that they are appropriate for their stage of development.

The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of child protection. She has a suitable understanding of the possible signs of abuse and is aware of the correct procedure to follow if she has any concerns. This promotes children's welfare and safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle and are comfortable in childminder's home. They make some choices in their play as they choose from the suitable range offered. Young children's speech is developing as

the childminder talks to them about what they're doing. They begin to develop their imagination as they re-create familiar scenes, such as, taking the dolls for a walk.

Children begin to develop self-esteem and confidence through positive interactions with the childminder, for example, when playing with the small dolls. Children enjoy a satisfactory range of activities which contribute to their creativity, for example, dancing, small world play and arts and crafts activities.

The childminder has organised her resources in large, clear plastic boxes and in low-level bookcases. This makes some of them easily accessible to the children, building their independence skills and allowing them to follow their own interests.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are becoming aware of the wider community by visiting the local shops and park. There are resources which reflect positive images of society, building children's awareness of diversity. Children's care needs are well met as their normal home routine is followed, as discussed with their parents.

Children build positive relationships with the childminder and with each other. They are well behaved and polite as they respond to prompts to say "please" and "thank you". Children begin to learn about positive behaviour as the childminder gives clear explanations when behaviour is unacceptable. Children's individual needs are met, as discussed with parents. Children begin to play independently as the childminder gives them some opportunities to choose what they want to do, such as, playing with the small dolls.

Children benefit from the positive working partnership between the childminder and parents. New parents receive suitable information about the childminding through an initial visit. This includes the opportunity for them to look through some of the paperwork. Daily chats about the children take place, giving children a sense of belonging and well-being and keeping parents involved and informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is suitably experienced. However, she has not attended any recent childcare training and does not anticipate doing so. Children are settled and comfortable in the childminder's home. They are supported by the childminder in their play as she is on hand to help when needed. Children are confident in their surroundings to initiate some of their own play.

The childminder's paperwork is not always kept up to date and available. For example, the attendance register was not available on the day of the inspection. This poses a risk to children's well-being as there is no accurate record of their times of attendance. The childminder has produced some brief, written policies. These are shared with parents to ensure that they are informed about her practise. Permissions for specific activities and personal information are

gathered before the children attend. Overall, 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; improve fire safety precautions by ensuring the smoke alarms are in working order, make sure that chemicals are inaccessible to children, make sure that premises are secure, make sure the pond is safe or inaccessible; make sure the daily record of attendance shows times of arrival and departure and request written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has purchased new smoke alarms and these are checked regularly. All cleaning fluids are stored where they are inaccessible to children. The premises are kept secure when minded children are present and the pond has been filled in. All of these actions help to keep children safe.

The childminder has obtained written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for all children. This helps to ensure their well-being. The childminder stated that she records children's times of attendance in a register, although this was not available at inspection.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since April 2004.

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):

- complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for babies and young children
- ensure that children practise good hygiene procedures with regard to hand washing before they eat
- ensure that all unused sockets are made safe or inaccessible to children

- ensure children's times of attendance are accurately recorded and that the register is always 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