



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136382
Inspection date	03 May 2006
Inspector	Karen Elizabeth Screen
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 is qualified to Level 3 and has been registered since 1995. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 11 and 9 years old. They live in a house in the village of Wickwar, in South Gloucestershire. All areas of the property are available for childminding, with the main care taking place on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

There are toddler groups, playgroups, schools, shops and parks within easy walking distance. The childminder is able to deliver and collect children from Alexander Hosea Primary School. There are 13 children on roll, aged between 2 and 10 years old. The childminder offers full and part-time care, and is open between 07.00 and 18.00 all year round.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, tidy and comfortable home where they learn about personal hygiene and to care for themselves and their environment. They are encouraged to take their shoes off at the door in order to keep the home clean. Children are aware of the need to blow their noses and independently wipe their own noses after asking the childminder for some "bless-yous". The importance of hand washing is explained and children are confident to use the facilities for themselves with minimal help from the childminder.

Children's health is also protected within an environment where the childminder has a clear understanding of the treatment of minor injuries and the administration of medicines. Children are able to rest quietly when they are unwell. Cuddles and comfort are provided and their feelings acknowledged. The necessity of contacting parents if symptoms persist is understood and emergency contact numbers are easily available at all times.

Children are learning to appreciate foods which help them to grow and thrive. The childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating which she conveys to the children, but does not currently share with parents beforehand, so that they can plan their own meals in advance. Drinks are readily available and a range of healthy meals and snacks are offered during the day, such as cucumber sandwiches, carrots and raisins.

Children enjoy close warm and supportive relationships. Their emotional well-being is further supported through the close working relationships established between the childminder and parents. Children's physical development, is fostered through frequent walks in the open fields behind the childminder's home, where they enjoy plenty of fresh air and exercise. Good provision is also made for children to develop their eye-hand coordination as they practise digging and making sandcastles in the sand pit.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's independence is promoted as they are taught to cross roads in safety. The childminder has considered how she will keep children safe on outings, for example she rehearses rules and boundaries before setting out on walks. Risks to children from house fires have been minimised through well thought-out written emergency evacuation procedures, which are also shared with parents. However, children's safety is compromised because the childminder has not fully considered the possible risks to children posed by the glass panel in the sitting room cabinet.

A warm and welcoming feel to the home is achieved through comfortable furniture and displays of the children's work. The childminder has well thought-out plans for making the most of the available space. Many well chosen books, toys and resources have been purchased since the last inspection. They hold the children's interest, are of good quality and are attractively displayed in order to help children to select many items for themselves. The childminder tailors

her purchases to suit the needs and interests of the children. She also supplements her collection with items from the childminding resource centre and from the local library.

The childminder has all the required permissions and procedures in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare. She has a comprehensive child protection policy which she shares with parents. Children are well protected because the childminder is aware of the possible signs of children at risk and of her responsibility to report her concerns without delay, according to local child protection procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are curious and have a positive approach to new experiences. Their concentration is very good. They are encouraged and supported to choose and test the properties of different materials. For example, a child thoughtfully compares the merits of wet and dry sand for building sandcastles. Children are encouraged to be independent and take pride in helping to tidy away the toys before snack time. Children of all ages make decisions about their own play and learning. For example, they accompany themselves on a variety of interesting musical instruments, as they spontaneously sing songs such as "One, two, three, four, five, once I caught a fish alive". School-age children influence the choice of resources, activities, and experiences provided, through their consultations with the childminder about what they would like to see provided; and their thoughts on those already organised.

Children enjoy excellent relationships with the childminder. She offers appropriate praise and listens carefully to what they have to say. She is warm and attentive and the children respond with confident smiles. Children relate very well towards adults and other children. For example, they are confident to approach and interact with the inspector, such as asking her what she is doing, as she types up some of her notes from the inspection. Children's confidence and self-esteem are raised by a childminder who is sensitive to their needs and knows them well. They are relaxed and settled, enabling them to make excellent progress.

The plans, patterns within the day and the weekly routines are well established. This helps children to begin to predict what will happen next and to extend their skills in a secure environment. The childminder's plans are used as the basis for the day, but they are not rigid and are subject to change according to the children's interests and other variables such as the weather. The childminder makes excellent use of the Birth to three framework, to help support her work with young children. She recognises that it is a useful tool in planning appropriate experiences and tracking children's progress. She uses it to very good effect, to evaluate the benefit of the experiences she provides; and links these effectively to her planning for individual children's developmental needs. Extensive photographic evidence, records a wide range and variety of planned and spontaneous, activities and experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are helpful and polite. The childminder provides a good role model through her calm and polite manner. Children behave well, but do not always respond to guidance from the childminder. This is because the childminder sets, but she does not always maintain, clear and consistent boundaries. Children are beginning to learn about the different activities and the people involved in their village community. They take part in regular visits to the wider community, for example they ride in their pushchairs to the local shops and library. All children are valued as individuals. The childminder has a positive attitude towards finding solutions to any difficulties affecting the inclusion of all children, in any activities on offer. Children learn to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences. The childminder uses books and resources especially chosen to reflect diversity and acknowledge cultural differences.

Initial contact between the parents and childminder is a positive experience. Parents are provided with useful and concise information about her childminding facilities and business. The childminder ensures that parents views are regularly sought and acted upon. Parents report how highly they value the individual childminding books, which are filled with anecdotes, photographs and developmental information. Parents are also invited to make suggestions for improvement at any time.

Children are developing a sense of belonging through the warm welcome extended to their whole families. Excellent relationships between the childminder and parents, contribute to the children's confidence in the childminder. Close partnership with parents is achieved through the high quality prior information she provides about planned activities, experiences and their purpose. This strong link is achieved through the daily exchange of verbal and written information regarding many aspects of the children's lives whilst with the childminder and also whilst in their parent's care. This helps to build a genuine understanding of what is on offer and the development of a full partnership with parents. Some children will continue to benefit from many of the experiences, because their parents choose to repeat these at home.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children are very well supported by a childminder who uses her time efficiently to organise space, resources and herself, to the best advantage, in order to ensure that the children receive excellent adult attention. For example, she labels books according to the areas of learning they cover, in order to help her select suitable stories to support children's learning. The childminder is very well qualified and keen to update her knowledge and understanding, in order to improve outcomes for children. She has a very clear sense of purpose and a commitment to continual improvement. The childminder devises her own training plans to enhance her practice; and has recently completed several short courses on specific approaches to learning and child development, such as that on 'Well Being and Belonging'.

Children's welfare is purposefully promoted through comprehensive and well-maintained paperwork. Policies and procedures have been developed by the childminder for the efficient

management of the provision, such as her uncollected child policy. The childminder takes positive steps to ensure that parents are kept very well informed about all policies and procedures. This includes reviews of all documents; and is done annually or sooner if necessary, in order to reflect any important amendments, such as the recent changes required in the recording of any complaints.

The childminder is exceptionally well-organised. Registers and records surpass regulatory requirements and are easily available at all times. Emergency numbers are clear and easily accessible both on the premises and on outings. Detailed personal information and permission for specific activities is obtained well before the children are due to attend and is filed securely for each child.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to improve her procedures for recording any significant behavioural incidents; and to ensure that parents sign to acknowledge when any medication has been administered to their children. Children's health is now protected because the arrangements for administering medicines meet requirements and therefore foster the good health of the children. Children's behaviour is generally managed in a way that promotes their welfare and development, and any significant incidents can be recorded and shared with parents.

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 the 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 that the glass in the cabinet does not pose a danger 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