



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 223835 |
| Inspection date | 04 May 2006 |
| Inspector | Kathryn Mary Harding |

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| 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 1999. She lives with her son, in a small village in South Shropshire. The property is situated within walking distance of the local school, pre-schools and local amenities.

The rooms that are used for childminding purposes consist of a kitchen, lounge and downstairs bathroom and a bedroom upstairs. There is an enclosed garden area available for outside play. The childminder is registered for six children under eight years and is currently caring for four children under five years and one school aged child on a part-time basis.

The family has two dogs, two cats and fish.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm clean setting where they learn the importance of appropriate personal hygiene and personal care through the daily routines. The childminder will not accept an ill child, so preventing the spread of infection. Procedures are in place to record administration of medication. However written parental consent regarding the application of non-prescription medications, such as sun cream is not in place. Written permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is also not in place. Consequently children's good health is not fully promoted.

The childminder provides healthy and nutritious snacks such as crackers and breadsticks and takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to meet their dietary requirements. Children are offered regular drinks such as squash so that they do not become thirsty.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. They learn about healthy living as they talk about the importance of hand washing. There are outdoor activities to help children develop control of their bodies, for example a climbing frame and slide. They take part in a range of activities, such as craft activities to help develop their fine control skills. Regular visits to the park and walks improve children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment which is warm and where there is sufficient space for the children to play in. In order to help keep children safe the childminder checks the rooms prior to the children arriving. Safety precautions such as socket covers and a fireguard are in place. However the pond in the garden is accessible to children. Consequently children's safety is compromised.

Children independently select activities from a range of good quality toys and resources, which meet safety standards and are regularly checked. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are encouraged to keep themselves safe as they talk about road safety when outside the home.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection matters and has a leaflet available regarding what to do if there is a child protection concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and interested to learn. Close and caring relationships between the childminder and the children have formed and the childminder knows them very well, which

increases children's sense of trust. The childminder supports the children well in their play, as she gets down on the floor to their level and encourages the younger children to play with the train track.

Children engage in a wide range of activities which promote their overall development well, such as imaginary play, craft activities and construction sets. The childminder 'snuggles in' younger children, sings nursery rhymes and encourages them to clap their hands.

Children choose and make decisions about their play, encouraging them to be independent learners. Their learning is extended, as the childminder encourages them to think, by asking open-ended questions when talking about the spiders and jelly fish. The childminder has looked at the 'Birth to three matters' framework pack and adapts activities such as baking and floor puzzles so all children can take part.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are encouraged to choose from the range of toys regardless of gender. In order to promote children's understanding and awareness of the wider world they have access to some toys and resources that positively reflect diversity. The childminder ensures that children are treated as individuals and meets their specific needs effectively.

Children learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour, as the childminder has clear strategies in place to deal with unwanted behaviour. Their understanding of right and wrong is increased as they are given explanations, and for example, are asked to take turns with the bear in the honey pot.

Partnership with parents is sound. The childminder keeps parents well informed about how their child has been, what they have been doing and where they are planning on going. This ensures consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are at home within the relaxed environment. They are confident to choose their own activities and are effectively supported by the childminder who organises the play environment appropriately.

Most required paperwork is in place to promote children's well-being. However the childminder does not hold a current paediatric first aid certificate. Children's good health is therefore not fully promoted. The certificate of registration is not displayed. Parents are therefore not aware of the conditions of registration. Confidentiality is maintained as all paperwork is stored securely.

Overall the children's needs are met.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to obtain a copy of the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) procedures and obtain written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder has obtained the ACPC leaflet but has not obtained written parental consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and therefore this is brought forward as a recommendation at this inspection.

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):

- ensure that a paediatric first aid course is accessed
- ensure that written parental consent is in place prior to the application of non-prescription medications and to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure that the pond is inaccessible 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