



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161655
Inspection date	02 August 2006
Inspector	Susan, Esther Harvey

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 has been registered since 1978. She lives with her husband in Malmesbury, Wiltshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for minding and there is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding nine children under five part-time, and two children over five part-time before and after school, and during the school holidays. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are healthy and cared for in warm and clean premises. The childminder teaches the children the importance of strict hand washing routines, and provides all the equipment they need to wash their hands independently. The childminder has exceptionally high standards of hygiene and is alert to reinforce good practice as necessary. This ensures that children are not at risk from cross-infection. A sick children's policy is formally shared with parents and permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice is provided. Children benefit from the childminder's thorough knowledge and experience of the correct recording procedures to follow when accidents occur or medication is required.

Children develop an excellent awareness of healthy eating through discussion with the childminder. They learn that vegetable and fruit, such as strawberries and apples, grow in the garden, which are used as part of a non-cooking activity when making strawberry jelly. Parents provide children's healthy and nutritious lunch and snacks. But the childminder provides regular drinks at all times. As a result, children have plenty of fluids throughout the day. Children develop their social skills through eating together at the table.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have daily access to fresh air as part of their extended play in the garden. They also have access to a varied range of physical exercise. This includes travelling by public transport to play areas where they can increase their large muscle development climbing on, and crawling through, various apparatus. Walking to the local park and feeding the ducks is part of the childminder's planned routine for children. All this contributes to children's healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a homely, cheerful environment which is welcoming and very child friendly. There is a wide selection of toys and resources in several areas of the home. They are safely stored and very clean for children to use. Children freely select from a good range of toys that are stimulating, interesting and support many areas of children's development. Children's free choice opportunities enable them to develop good levels of confidence and independence. As a result, children experience playing with a good range of safe, stimulating and developmentally appropriate indoor toys. Children have access to a range of ride-on outdoor toys, but opportunities for children to further develop their physical skills while playing in the garden is not fully maximised.

Children are cared for in a safe home and benefit from a good range of safety measures. The childminder is conscientious at preserving children's well-being by monitoring safety issues in the home and on outings. For example, a stair gate is in place at the entrance to the kitchen, safety sockets are in place, and children are closely supervised at all times. The childminder has a well documented fire procedure which is also shared with parents, and practised with children.

A written record is kept to support the times the practice as taken place. As a result, children are highly tuned to the route to take if they need to evacuate the premises safely and efficiently.

The childminder has an excellent understanding of child protection issues. She keeps all the relevant documents accessible, and informs parents of the process to be taken if there are concerns about any child. This means that children's well-being is actively and effectively promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children very much enjoy their time in the company of the childminder. They receive all the attention from the childminder and are very secure. Children participate in a good range of meaningful activities which develops new interests and extends their knowledge. For example, children thoroughly enjoy mixing and stirring jelly crystals in a jug; and watch them dissolve in the water. They count the strawberries which are picked from the garden, before pouring over the dissolved liquid. Children laugh with delight as they hunt for shells in the sand pit and make building sites with various utensils. Children's imagination is being encouraged by the childminder. She interacts with them as play freely with dolls and teddy bears, preparing plastic food and cooking meals, and generally learning to take care of their favourite toys. Children participate in activities which increase their understanding of every day transport, as they build roads and railway tracks around a collection of houses, hospital and garage made from wood. The childminder praises the children for their achievements which helps them feel good about themselves and proud of their abilities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are valued and cared for, according to their individual needs. They learn to share and take turns in a serene environment. Children learn and follow house rules, because they are clear and children understand the reasons for them. As a result, children's behaviour is managed appropriately with a firm but fair approach. Children and the childminder form strong bonds which results in children being very well settled and operate like a close family.

All children have equal access to toys and activities, and receive equal attention from the childminder. They begin to learn about differences within society as they have a good range of resources reflecting positive images such as dolls, books and small world figures to use in their imaginative play.

The childminder has excellent strategies for building good relationships with parents, which contributes significantly to children's well-being. She religiously shares information with parents to ensure consistency and to help parents feel involved in their children's development. This includes, an induction process which is dependent on how the child settles, and the flexibility to fit in with parents and children's wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Children benefit from an extremely well organised childminder. She has clear and comprehensive policies and procedures to keep them safe. The childminder has both experience and qualification, which enables her to provide a high standard of care and support to children. She organises her paperwork effectively to ensure it remains confidential, but readily available if needed. Children gain from the childminder's commitment in furthering her professional development by attending courses. She works extremely hard to provide quality care for children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure all children have more opportunities to develop a knowledge of different cultures and lifestyles. The childminder has purchased a variety of resources and books which has increased children's awareness of diversity.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints 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 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):

- further improve outdoor opportunities which enable children to increase their physical skills, by adding to equipment for use in the garden.

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