



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	101049
Inspection date	20 September 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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her husband and their three children, aged nine, 11 and 13 years old. They live in a five-bedroom, detached house in the residential area of Abbeymead, on the outskirts of Gloucester. Most childminding takes place on the ground floor. The family keep goldfish and hamsters as pets.

The childminder offers before and after-school care. She delivers and collects children from Upton St. Leonard's Primary school. There are five children on roll aged between five and nine years old. Two are aged under eight, but were not present at the time of the inspection.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's good health is promoted. She has clear systems in place to gather information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and any allergies. The childminder is active in promoting good health and hygiene. She describes how she helps children to learn about good personal hygiene, for example through discussions about the need to wash hands after playing with the hamsters. Also, through the provision of a hand towel which is changed daily. She also demonstrates how her arrangements for looking after pets are hygienic and keep the children safe.

From discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of healthy eating and of the need to ensure that drinking water is easily available to children at all times. She also explains that she reminds children of the need to drink more when the weather is hot, or when they have been exercising. The childminder talks about how she encourages children to enjoy fresh air and exercise when she cares for children after school. For example through playing swing-ball, football and through skipping.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is warm and welcoming. Children may choose to play outside, relax on comfortable furniture to watch favourite television programmes, play computer and board games together, or to engage in craft activities. The childminder describes how children sometimes choose to be active after school, at other times to 'chill-out' in front of the television. Some well-chosen and good quality games and resources have been purchased since the last inspection. The childminder recognises the need to ensure that her resources 'grow' with the children.

The childminder explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety, for example through discussion about fire evacuation. She also describes how she promotes children's safety as she teaches them to negotiate roads in safety. However, she has not fully considered the possible risks to children posed by the glass panels in the doors dividing the sitting room, dining room and kitchen.

Children are protected from abuse by a childminder who is very clear about child protection procedures. She is aware of the possible signs of children at risk, and of her responsibility to report her concern without delay, according to Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

From discussion, it is clear that children enjoy good relationships with the childminder. She is aware of the need to offer appropriate praise and to listen carefully to what children have to say. She describes how she raises children's confidence and self-esteem, by being sensitive to

their needs and getting to know them well. The childminder talks about how she encourages children's creative skills through drawing and painting. The impact of these on the children's development is not clear, because there are no records or evidence of what the children can do.

Play resources are sufficient in quantity and easily accessible. The childminder describes how she helps children to feel secure, through establishing an organised and predictable day. The childminder communicates how she helps children to feel involved and valued, by encouraging them to suggest ideas for resources and activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder explains how she helps children to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences such as through discussion following some television programmes. However, she has very few resources such as books and puzzles, promoting positive images of diversity.

The childminder describes how she manages children's behaviour in a way that promotes their welfare and development. She tries to help children to understand that rules have to be followed for everyone's benefit; and includes them in deciding the 'rules of the house'. Behaviour management procedures are shared verbally with parents, so that continuity may be agreed and followed.

Information for parents includes details about agreements, consents and verbal feedback on what has been happening in the day. It does not extend to providing prior information about planned activities or experiences, except for organised outings in the holidays. This inhibits a genuine understanding of what is on offer and the development of a full partnership with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Overall, evidence suggests that the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. Although there are no children present, the childminder demonstrates how she uses her time, space, resources and records to support the children. She is able to produce evidence to show that children's records are stored securely and are easily available when required. However she does not keep daily records of children's times of attendance. This means that in the event of an emergency such as a fire, the childminder may not be able to ensure that every child is accounted for and protected. This places children at risk and is a breach of regulations.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical attention. The children's health is now safeguarded in the event of an emergency, because the childminder has sought written permission from their parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 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 accurate daily records of children's attendance are maintained
- consider ways of improving positive images of diversity
- ensure that glass in the doors 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