



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	101059
Inspection date	25 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 11 year old grand-daughter in a three bedroom semi-detached house in Matson, a residential area on the outskirts of Gloucester. Childminding mainly takes place on the ground floor. The family keep a cat, dog and several goldfish.

The childminder is able to deliver and collect children from Robinswood Primary School. She offers flexible childminding arrangements between 07.00 and 18.00. There are three children on roll aged between four and eight years old.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very independent in their personal care. They are aware of the need to blow their noses after asking the childminder for some tissues. Children learn how to help prevent the spread of infection, as they wash their hands before eating lunch. Children learn about good personal hygiene, for example through discussions about the need to wash their hands after playing with the dog and also through the childminder drawing their attention to the need to regularly change the hand towels. The childminder demonstrates how her arrangements for looking after pets are hygienic and keep the children safe, such as feeding the dog in the kitchen away from the children, and removing the bowl as soon as the dog has finished eating.

Good routines for mealtimes are well established. Parents provide their children with a prepared lunch box and the childminder encourages the children to try the healthy options first. The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of healthy eating which she conveys to the children, but does not always seize the opportunity to enlist their interest and support in helping to prepare the snacks.

Children enjoy warm, relaxed and supportive relationships. Their emotional well-being is fostered as good working relationships are quickly established between their parents, the childminder and involved professionals. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the children's individual needs and is sensitive to the parents own needs. The childminder talks about how she encourages children to enjoy fresh air and exercise when she collects them from school, but does not make regular provision within the day for children to take part in energetic/outside play.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is warm and welcoming, with comfortable furniture, including a child-sized table and chairs set; and displays of the children's work on the playroom walls. Children are interested and want to play with the available toys and resources which are safe and in good condition. Many well-chosen and good quality resources have been purchased since the last inspection, such as useful storage solutions, which display resources, whilst enabling children to select items for themselves. The childminder recognises the need to ensure that her resources 'grow' with the children. For example she regularly visits the local library to supplement her book collection.

The childminder carries out regular risk assessments, but has not fully considered the possible risks to children posed by the cleaning materials which are kept in a low unlocked kitchen cupboard. She uses a new stair gate to block the kitchen doorway, but the children are able to open it. Risks to children from house fires have been minimised through well thought-out emergency evacuation procedures, which are practised by the childminder and children. Children are well protected by a childminder who is clear about child protection procedures. She 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 satisfactory.

Children are relaxed and settled. Their confidence and self-esteem are raised by a childminder who is kind and affectionate and knows them well; and the children respond with obvious affection. They communicate very well with the childminder, who offers appropriate praise and listens carefully to what they have to say. Children also relate very well towards other adults, for example they are confident to approach and interact with the inspector, smiling and giving the inspector a doll to play with.

Children are helped to feel secure, through an established and organised day. This helps children to predict what will happen next and to extend their skills in a secure environment. The childminder shows patience and understanding when the children practise skills, such as putting on a new school uniform jumper the right way round.

Children make some decisions such as the route to take on the walk home from school. They concentrate very well, for example a child spends a long time choosing different coloured pencils and felt-tipped pens to enhance her picture. Opportunities for children to experience a variety of textures through sensory activities, such as investigating the properties of playdough are satisfactory, but chances to build on their natural curiosity as learners, and explore and investigate the natural environment are not well exploited.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are beginning to learn to appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences through discussion and through some television programmes. However, there are few books and resources reflecting diversity and acknowledging cultural differences. The childminder is aware of where to seek help if she feels a child needs extra support. She is committed to working with parents and happy to consult relevant professionals, to support the welfare of the children.

Children's behaviour is managed in a way that promotes their welfare and development. The childminder helps children to understand that rules have to be followed for everyone's benefit; and includes them in deciding the 'rules of the house'. These are prominently displayed on the walls and referred to by the children and childminder. Behaviour management procedures are shared verbally with parents, so that continuity may be agreed and followed. Children value the star chart reward system in place and take pride in showing the inspector how many stars they have achieved last week.

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 means that parents are unable to plan ways to support their children's learning at home.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She is suitably qualified and is keen to update her knowledge and understanding in order to improve outcomes for children. She recognises the importance of ongoing training, to further develop her knowledge, understanding and practice and has undertaken several short 'parenting' courses, such as 'How To Manage Sibling Rivalry'.

The childminder produced evidence to show that records are stored securely and are easily available when required. 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. Registers and records all meet regulatory requirements and are easily available at all times.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder agreed to: complete an appropriate first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children; obtain public liability insurance; and to keep a written record, signed by parents, of medicines administered to children.

Children are safer in the setting because the childminder has undertaken appropriate training to raise her awareness of the steps she should take should the children have an accident or need urgent medical attention. She has also obtained public liability insurance to cover children in the event of accidents or unexpected events which may require long-term care. Children's health is protected because parents are asked to sign all medication records. In this way, they are made fully aware of the doses and times that the medicines have been administered.

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 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):

- consider ways of improving opportunities for children to take part in energetic/outside play
- ensure that cleaning materials do not pose a danger to children
- consider ways of further improving children's access to toys and resources reflecting positive images of diversity, and acknowledging cultural differences.

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