



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161863
Inspection date	31 July 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 was registered in 1991. She lives with her husband, adult son and teenage daughter in Chippenham, Wiltshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time, and is currently minding three children under five. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family have no pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean home where they learn effective hygiene routines and personal care. This contributes to their good health through the persistent management of their personal hygiene by the childminder. For example, children use individual towels to dry their hands, and receive gentle reminders to wash hands after using the toilet. The childminder's nappy changing routine includes encouraging young children to learn about the importance of personal hygiene by including them in the hand washing process. As a result, every effort is taken to prevent the spread of infection.

The childminder has a first aid certificate which ensures appropriate action would be taken in the event of an accident. Parents are made aware of the childminder's sick children's policy, and permission to seek emergency medical treatment and advice is provided. Children are able to snuggle in to the childminder when feeling tired.

Children benefit from a healthy lifestyle. They have daily exercise which is part of the childminder's routine of the day. This includes walks in the local park and to feed the ducks, and access physical play equipment at toddler groups. As a result, children learn about the importance of daily exercise. Young children are provided with a safe place to sleep undisturbed.

Children have access to regular drinking water which is readily available throughout the day. Parents provide the children with lunch and snacks. Healthy options are discussed with parents, and children are aware of the effect fruit and vegetables have towards building healthy bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are made welcome in a family environment where toys and resources are attractively set out ready for children to use on arrival. They have easy access to the clean toys which are separated into boxes according to the age of children. For example, baby toys are spotlessly clean and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children are cared for in a very safe environment where all the risks have been identified and minimised. An example of this is, all doors and windows are locked to prevent children leaving the premises unsupervised. The childminder has a well written fire procedure which is also shared with parents. She is fully aware of the route to take should it be necessary for children to leave the premises in an emergency. The garden is secure and gives the children chance to play safely while being closely supervised by the childminder.

Children's welfare is enhanced through the childminder's effective understanding of the child protection reporting and recording procedures. As a result, children are protected from harm should the childminder have any concerns about their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and confident in the childminder's care. They concentrate fully while building tall towers with brightly coloured plastic bricks. Children are friendly and talkative retelling events that have happened to them. Children sit comfortably as they sit and listen to stories on the television. The childminder provides a good selection of books for children to readily access, they can sit and look at them in comfort.

Children are familiar with the routine of the day and are fully aware of the toys and resources available to them if they wish to choose an activity. Children are happy and content in the childminder's care, and she supports young children's emotional development by giving cuddles and reassurance.

The childminder is putting many aspects of the Birth to three matters framework into practise in her care for young children. This includes providing toys and resources which enables young children to become playfully engaged and involved.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals by the childminder. She listens closely to what they have to say. Children benefit from the childminder knowing them and their families well. Children have resources to help them learn about diversity. They visit toddler groups where they are introduced to various cultural festivals, and are able to spend time with other children.

Children benefit from the friendly relationship between parents and the childminder. She keeps them verbally informed about the events of the day. This includes where the childminder has taken the children and whether they have been happy during the day. New parents are provided with a file to read which includes forms to complete with their children's personal details, fire drill and a written agreement detailing what the childminder is to provide. However, the childminder does not have a process in place in the event of a parent complaining about the service she provides. The effective partnership between parents and childminder, enables children's individual needs to be met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Children are warmly welcomed into a family home where the space available gives them many opportunities to freely select toys and resources in the down stairs area of the house. The childminder is appropriately organised in her use of time spent in the company of the children. Children gain from the set routine of the day, which includes a balance of time spent in the home and socialising at toddler groups. The daily record of children's time of arrival and departure are up to date, and documents are efficiently maintained in order to promote the care, welfare and learning of children. Children gain from the childminder's commitment to

keeping well informed by subscribing to an early years magazine which keeps her up to date with many aspects of childcare.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to keep an accurate record of children's attendance and parental acknowledgment of when medicine is administered. To remove slug pellets and ironing board out of children's way, and to improve knowledge and understanding of methods to promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Children's safety and welfare has been enhanced by the childminder's organisation of the attendance record and parental signature regarding the administration of medication. The ironing board and slug pellets are safely stored and the childminder has increased her knowledge of equal opportunity issues by subscribing to a childminding publication

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 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 a process is in place to include a written record to be acted upon within 28 days in the event of a complaint being made by parents.

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