

Mrs Bernadette Lynne Roberts

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	107822
Inspection date	16 March 2007
Inspector	Helen Ann Woods

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 2000. She lives with her two school aged children. They live in a bungalow in the village of Chalfont St Giles, close to local schools, shops and a park. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There are fully enclosed gardens available for outside play at the front and rear of the premises. Currently there are seven children on roll attending part time.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate as well as a food hygiene certificate.

The family have a dog and two guinea pigs.

The childminder attends local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a homely, clean environment where the childminder maintains good levels of hygiene. Children are familiar with the daily routine of hand washing after playing in the garden, using the toilet and before eating meals. Children are protected from unnecessary illness, as they do not attend if they are contagious.

The childminder prepares all the children's meals and parents are able to see menu's for the week. Sample menu's include fresh fruit, meat, fish, dairy, vegetables, wholemeal bread and cereals. Healthy snacks of dried or fresh fruit are offered in a way that enables the children to help themselves. Meals and snacks take account of individual requirements and personal preferences. Drinks are accessible at all times and children have their own cups.

Children develop manipulative skills by cutting out pictures and shapes they have drawn, catching and rolling small plastic balls and building with different size bricks. They take part in regular physical activities on the climbing frame, trampoline, and swings in the garden. Every day children are taken out as they walk up to the school to collect other children, to local parks and regular meetings with other local childminders.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm, welcoming home where children feel safe and secure. Space within the house and in the garden is well organised allowing children to move about safely and independently. Risks have been carefully identified and minimised, for example, the swings in the garden are placed in an area that is on soft bark chippings and the trampoline has high safety nets in place to prevent falls.

When children are taken and collected from school they observe a strict code of conduct as they walk along the busy roads. They are observant to local traffic conditions and stay close to the childminder. Toys and resources are checked regularly to ensure that they are clean and that there are no broken parts.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted, for example, the childminder holds a current paediatric first aid certificate. She has a good understanding of child protection procedures to be followed if abuse is suspected. She keeps herself informed by regularly checking the internet and printing off any information such as details of the Child Protection Safeguarding Board within her area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are confident and readily make themselves 'at home'. They have good self-esteem, which is fostered well by the childminder as she listens with interest and praises their achievements. Children express themselves and communicate confidently using gesture, expression and language as they colour, and pretend to cook whilst playing in the tent. Children enjoy a range of activities such as art and craft, modelling with play dough and pretend home play.

They regularly go out to local places of interest such as parks, to the village and meet with other childminders in the area. Toys and equipment are well placed, allowing children to help themselves and make independent choices.

Children involve the childminder in their play and they receive lots of warm, individual attention, which enables them to successfully extend their learning and experiences. The childminder has a sound knowledge of child development. This means that children's personal, social and emotional development is well supported. The childminder works together with parents and ensures children follow their established routines, such as sleeping and feeding patterns. Children are therefore happy and relaxed, benefiting from a caring stimulating environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's home. They receive lots of praise and encouragement as she involves herself with their play. The children are well behaved and have good self discipline. They understand clear consistent house rules, based around safety and respect for property and people. They help to clear away and are very comfortable with the daily routine. Children mix socially with others encouraging them to learn respect for differing cultures and abilities.

The childminder's good understanding of children's learning and developmental needs ensure she meets any child's learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She ensures that the resources positively represent the children who attend as well as individuals from the wider community. This enables them to learn about other people and understand the differences in others.

The childminder and parents form a close working relationship that ensures continuity of care for children. The childminder discusses children's activities with parents every day. Parents receive copies of all policies and procedures and all relevant recordings concerning their child. The childminder maintains confidentiality at all times

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children feel at home and at ease within the well organised environment. Children use all available play space in and outside the home. The childminder keeps up-to-date with new childminding developments by attending regular training programmes in order to develop her skills whenever she can. She also regularly looks at current developments and information on the internet such as details of the local child protection procedures.

All documents are in place according to regulation however recording of any existing injuries, although discussed with parents, is not recorded in the accident book and signed. Records are stored securely and made available for inspection.

The childminder keeps parents well informed about the care that is provided. The childminder meets the needs for the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that all contracts with parents are accurate, contain details of children's names, date of birth and parent's contact details. Also

to ensure consents are in place for the transport of children by car and to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

All contracts hold accurate and up to date information on the children cared for as well as their names, address and date of birth. Consents are in place for children to be transported in the car and to receive emergency medical treatment. As a result the children's safety, health and well being is enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required 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 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 any existing injuries are recorded.

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