



Inspection report for early years provision

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Unique Reference Number | 136432 |
| Inspection date | 08 February 2007 |
| Inspector | Janice Clark |
| 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 has been registered since 1975. She lives with her husband and an adult lodger. Her adult son regularly stays at the home for short periods when returning to Britain from work abroad. The family live in a three-bedroom terraced house in Patchway, South Gloucestershire. There are playgroups, toddler groups, schools, parks, a library and shops within easy access. The whole of the ground floor, third bedroom and bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding.

There are six children currently on roll. The family have one cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder cares for children in a warm, clean and welcoming environment. She implements sound hygiene practice in the home and takes appropriate care surrounding the hygiene of the cat. Children follow basic hygiene procedures. For instance, the childminder cleans younger children's hands with wipes before snacks and meals. When a toddler exclaimed that her 'nose was falling off', the childminder gently wiped the child's nose with a tissue. Older children are independent in their self-care skills, they go to the bathroom on their own and separate towels are available to them after they wash their hands. This helps to minimise the risk of cross infection. Appropriate documents are in place to record the administration of medication and of accidents to children and the childminder keeps these well maintained. However, not all procedures are in place to fully promote children's health and well-being. The childminder has not obtained written parental consent to seek emergency aid or advice and she has failed to notify Ofsted of a significant event regarding an accident.

Children begin to learn about healthy eating because they enjoy snacks of fresh fruit, vegetables, raisins and dried apricots. They eat packed lunches from home and drink juice or milk with their food. Water is always available to them. As a result, they learn the importance of drinking regularly as a way to maintain their health. The childminder finds out about the children's dietary and religious needs before they start.

Children enjoy the benefits of a routine that ensures the appropriate balance of rest and play. Regular opportunities to play in the garden, visits to the local park and soft play centres provide children with fresh air and exercise that contributes to their good health. For example, the soft play centres enable children to join in a variety of fun activities where they climb up and slide down large apparatus, squeeze in and out of tunnels, jump on and punch large soft shapes in a non-threatening environment. This assists in promoting children's large physical skills and co-ordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure in a child friendly environment. Space has been organised so that children can wander freely between two play rooms on the ground floor. They grow in confidence because there is sufficient room to crawl, toddle and explore without restrictions. The childminder regularly cleans and checks the toys and equipment to ensure that they are safe and hygienic for children to use. Resources are reasonably accessible to children and that means that they can make independent choices in their play. The childminder has identified and minimised most hazards to children. For example, storage heaters are covered, safety gates are in place, electrical sockets are covered and fire safety equipment is in place. Children learn how to keep themselves and others safe through a well practised fire evacuation procedure. The childminder keeps children safe when walking outdoors and also while travelling in the car. She talks to them about road safety and this further increases their awareness of keeping themselves safe.

The childminder takes positive steps to safeguard children's welfare. She has an up-to-date first aid certificate and keeps a well stocked first aid kit as well as a small one that she takes with her on outings. She has a good awareness of child protection in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children flourish because they have good relationships with the childminder. She interacts well with the children, plays at their level, talks to them and attends to their needs. They enjoy playing with a wide range of toys and resources that provide them with fun activities. The childminder supports children well in their play. For instance, she helped two toddlers to thread some reels. She talked about the colours and waited patiently while they pushed the string through the reel, offering assistance when appropriate, then praised them for their efforts. Children enjoy painting and playing imaginative role play. One child happily fed her baby with a bottle and put her to bed in a push chair. Older children play with imaginative toys, a large train and track, and a wide selection of puzzles and games. The childminder provides first hand experiences for children, for instance, when it snowed they looked out to see the cat's paw prints in the snow. Children find out about people who help them, such as the local fire fighters who came to visit with their fire engine.

The childminder is beginning to introduce the Birth to three matters framework into the setting. This helps her to observe children and provide them with developmentally appropriate activities that enable them to progress onto the next step. For example, she has gathered together an interesting range of materials in a 'treasure basket'. This consists of household and natural materials, such as a ball, a roll of string, a brush, bell, steel pad and a prickly hair roller. This encourages younger children to explore and investigate through using their senses. A tactile board, trays of pasta and jelly crystals further develop their natural curiosity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the local community and the diversity of the people who work and live there through attending child care groups, going on outings and visits to the local park, library, shops and the garden centre. They travel further a field to the Forrest of Dean and this further promotes their sense of adventure. Children play with some toys and resources that promote positive images. They explore and investigate interesting objects in the home, such as the childminder's name written in the shape of a Chinese dragon and a wide range of clocks including Cuckoo clocks from Switzerland. Consequently, they begin to learn about the wider world and the ways of others. The childminder displays the children's art work on the wall in the play room and children enjoy looking at photographs of themselves and their peers playing with activities in the setting. This assists in promoting a sense of belonging.

The childminder promotes positive behaviour through praise and reward and this helps to raise children's self-esteem. She has a calm manner and this in turn creates a calm atmosphere for children to play. She encourages children to share and to take turns and she achieves this

through play. The childminder shares her behaviour management policy with parents when they first start and this helps towards continuity of care. The childminder has a positive attitude towards working with children and their families with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The childminder displays her policies and procedures clearly for parents to read. This helps parents to understand how the childminder works in practice. She finds out about children's needs from the parents when they first start at the setting and therefore children confidently settle into her care. The childminder is very sensitive to the parents' needs. She shares information regarding the children's care, development and activities with them on a daily basis verbally and through a written diary. This is a two-way method of communication which helps both parties become aware of what is happening in a child's life.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder welcomes children as part of her family. She organises her day well to incorporate taking and collecting children to and from nursery and school. She includes visits to groups and regular outings into her weekly programme. As a result, children enjoy the benefits of a home environment, as well as socialising with other children and exploring different resources and activities. She maintains the appropriate child ratios and this ensures that children receive sufficient adult support and care. The childminder organises her home to offer children an interesting and child friendly environment. She is very enthusiastic about childminding. She self-evaluates her practice and attends regular training courses to extend her knowledge of childcare. This assists in promoting an environment where children can play safely, enjoy activities and make a positive contribution. However, not all policies and procedures are in place and consequently, children's well-being is not fully promoted. For example, the childminder has not obtained written consent from parents to seek medical aid or advice. She does not keep a record of complaints to show parents on request. In addition, she has not informed Ofsted of a significant event. The latter is a breach of regulations. The childminder has a strong commitment to improve her practice. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom they provide.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the previous inspection the childminder was requested to improve the procedure for recording the administration of medication; to inform Ofsted of significant events; to ensure that the cats sleeping arrangements did not pose a health risk to children; carry out risk assessments and to practise the fire evacuation procedure. The provider has addressed most of these issues and these assist in promoting positive outcomes for children. However, she has still not informed Ofsted of significant events as identified in the report.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 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 procedures are in place to inform Ofsted of any significant events or incidents
- ensure that all the required documentation meets the required National Standards

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