



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	100726
Inspection date	13 February 2007
Inspector	Glenda Sinclair
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 first registered in 1998. She lives with her husband and their three children aged 15, 13 and seven years. Her husband works with her as a co-minder. The family live in a four-bedroom detached chalet bungalow in Cinderford, a semi-rural town, close to three primary schools, three playgroups, shops, library and a wooded area. The house is within easy travelling distance of most parts of the Forest of Dean. The childminders use the ground floor of the house, the garden playroom and the enclosed rear garden for children's play. They also have occasional help from an assistant.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and currently has six children on her books, all of whom attend part-time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about personal hygiene as they are reminded to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. The childminder starts this process at an early age and makes the whole activity fun by singing 'This is the way we wash our hands'. Good hygienic nappy changing procedures are in place to protect children from the spread of infection. Children have many opportunities for fresh air and exercise as they go out for walks or play in the safely enclosed rear garden. Children's emotional well-being is fostered with many reassuring cuddles. They role play 'doctors' with their dolls and get used to syringes and stethoscopes in a familiar friendly environment.

Parents provide all main meals but the childminder ensures their freshness by storing them in a refrigerator. She provides healthy nutritious snacks of fruit and milk or water

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder pays good attention to all aspects of safety and security. The side gate has a high bolt to prevent children leaving the garden without adult supervision. There is a closed circuit television camera in operation to check visitors and fire procedures are in place to protect children in an emergency. Toys and equipment are clean and in a safe condition. They are not presently easily accessible to children owing to lack of storage during major building work.

The childminder has undergone suitable child protection training. She is reasonably knowledgeable about the signs and indicators of abuse, as well as the procedures to follow if she has concerns about the welfare of any individual child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children have warm relationships with the childminder, which enables them to feel secure and to proceed with the important business of learning through play. They have access to age appropriate toys and are encouraged to share and take turns. They learn about counting, shape and colour as well as learning about the world around them, when they discuss snow, flowers and animals. The childminder and her co-minder split the group occasionally so that children are able to play at their own level without interference from older or younger children. Children have occasional access to the television or videos, often when a period of quiet would be beneficial. Stories, rhyme and dance also form a regular part of the children's experience.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder responds well to children's individual needs. She knows them well and is able to recognise which child needs a sleep but will not give in. She provides resources to help

children recognise the diversity in society. She is prepared to work with children who have learning difficulties or disabilities but the premises are not suitable for a child with severe mobility problems. The childminder uses praise very naturally to reward and encourage achievement and good behaviour. She encourages politeness, as she reminds children to say please and thank you. She instinctively uses distraction if a child's behaviour starts to deteriorate, but children generally behave well. She has a good partnership with parents and they speak very highly of her. She keeps them well informed through a daily diary system, which provides detailed descriptions of their child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder organises her time, premises and resources to organise a variety of activities to help children learn across all areas of their development. She is experienced and makes a big effort to keep up-to-date by attending a variety of training courses. Children benefit from her increasing knowledge. However, she does not use any system of self-appraisal to aid her professional development. The childminder records the actual times of children's arrival and departure in her register and the accident and medication records also show all the appropriate information. All required documentation and permissions are in place.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At her last inspection, the childminder was asked to request written parental permission to seek emergency treatment. She has put a system in place to record this permission and children will consequently be protected in an emergency.

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.

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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):

- develop a system of self-appraisal to aid professional development.

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