



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	506049
Inspection date	30 January 2007
Inspector	Nikki Whinton
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 was registered in 1989. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Old Town, Swindon. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding 10 children, of whom two attend on a full-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends the local carer and toddler group. The family has a dog and a cat.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Early Years Care and Education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children lead a very healthy lifestyle whilst in the childminder's care. They have daily opportunities for fresh air and exercise when walking to and from nearby schools and pre-schools or through the planned programme of weekly activities attended by the children in the local area. In addition, they play within the childminder's fully enclosed garden and go on regular walks to explore the surrounding environment.

Children increase their understanding of healthy eating through the varied menu of nutritious snacks, such as cucumber, crackers, raisins and apples, that they enjoy whilst in the childminder's care. Lunch boxes are provided by parents, the contents of which are stored as appropriate, for example, dairy products are kept in the fridge. Dietary needs and parental wishes are discussed prior to a child commencing in the setting to ensure any food offered complies with a child's individual requirements. These discussions are recorded and any needs accommodated.

Children benefit from the childminder's knowledge of first aid, her understanding of the correct administrative procedures to follow if accidents occur and her awareness of hygiene issues surrounding the care of children when animals are present. However, parents do not sign to acknowledge when their child has been given medication. In addition, whilst the childminder routinely reminds children to wash their hands, for example, before eating or after toileting, young children share a bowl of water and hand towel. As a result, they are at risk of cross contamination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play and rest within premises that are clean, suitably maintained and of an appropriate temperature. Children are able to visit the toilet independently, which helps them to develop their confidence and self-care skills. Children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of safety issues when taking them on outings and from the measures she has put in place within the home, such as making sure the premises are secure and that cleaning materials are stored out of the way of children. However, there is no smoke detector on the first floor of the property. In addition, sharp knives in the kitchen and non-protected glass in the garden shed windows are accessible to children. As a result, children's safety is put at risk.

Children are able to self-select from a suitable range of clean, well-maintained resources. They are frequently rotated to ensure they continue to stimulate the children. Such free choice opportunities help to promote children's self-assurance and sense of belonging within the provision. They benefit from the childminder's secure knowledge of safety issues concerning the purchase and ongoing maintenance of equipment. As a result, children play with safe, suitable toys that help to promote their development and learning.

Children's welfare is supported by a childminder who has a BTEC Advanced Award in Safeguarding Children and is aware of the correct procedures to follow if concerned about a

child. There are satisfactory arrangements for making parents aware of the childminder's child protection responsibilities, prior to a child commencing in the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children appear extremely confident, relaxed and very 'at home' in the environment. They are well occupied and enthusiastically make independent decisions regarding the activities and resources they wish to explore. For example, two children decide to play with a small world zoo, before later choosing to put on dressing up clothes and taking part in role-play. Children benefit from the active involvement of the childminder in their play, such as when showing the children how to use a spanner to tighten a bolt, whilst building with construction materials.

Children have a very positive relationship with the warm, friendly childminder. They are gaining social skills as they learn to share resources, such as when drawing pictures with templates, and to take turns. Children take part in a wide variety of frequently planned, age appropriate outings, such as to Tiger Tots, Coate Water, Lydiard Park or nearby carer and toddler groups. In addition, children go on bus journeys and take part in exciting train excursions to the seaside. Such opportunities help children to broaden their awareness of the wider world.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder knowing them very well, understanding their differing needs and having an awareness of their varying home circumstances. Each child is valued and respected. They are able to access a suitable range of resources, such as books, dolls and small world figures, to help them gain an awareness of diversity.

Children behave extremely well. Their behaviour is supported by the childminder's good use of effective strategies to promote their positive behaviour. For example, she uses an egg timer to help them learn about the passage of time when sharing resources, offers praise and explains in age appropriate language why certain behaviour is not appropriate. Written behaviour guidelines are shared with parents prior to a child starting in the provision. In addition, confidential discussions take place if required to share any behaviour issues and to make sure there is a consistency of approach.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the importance of building a positive partnership with parents. They are actively encouraged to become involved in their child's day whilst at the childminder's, such as by accompanying them on outings. Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through daily diaries for the youngest children and frequent informal discussion. Such strategies help to promote continuity in children's care between the home and the provision. However, the complaints procedure does not provide information about Ofsted, should they wish to take forward a concern.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is an experienced, well qualified early years practitioner who undertakes appropriate training courses to help develop her professional knowledge. All legally required documentation is in place, the register of attendance is carefully maintained and children's personal information is easily accessible, for example, to support their care if they become unwell whilst in the setting. However, written permission has not been obtained from all the parents of children currently attending to seek emergency medical treatment, to take children on outings or to use public transport.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

As a result of the last inspection the childminder was given an action and recommendations to help improve the quality of the provision. The action required the childminder to not exceed the approved numbers of children she is permitted to mind at any one time. The recommendations requested her to ensure all medication records are signed by parents, to record all children's personal details separately and to make sure written parental permission is obtained to transport children in a vehicle and on public transport.

The childminder no longer transports children in her car, she does not now exceed her registered numbers and children's personal information is recorded separately. These improvements have had a positive impact on the quality of care offered to the children. However, parents do not sign to acknowledge when their child has been given medication and written permission has not been obtained from all parents to take children on public transport.

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 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 all parents provide written permission to take children on outings, travel on public transport and for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure parents sign to acknowledge when children have been given medication and make sure positive steps are taken to promote children's good health with regard to hand washing and drying
- ensure sharp knives are inaccessible to children, unprotected glass in the garden shed window does not pose a risk to children and that a smoke detector is positioned on the first floor of the property which is maintained in working order

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