

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 102346
Inspection date 30 April 2007
Inspector Linda Janet Chauveau

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 1993. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and 14, in the village of Tregrehan near St Austell, Cornwall. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children, on different days throughout the week. The childminder drives to local schools/pre-schools to take and collect children. She takes children to the local park and parent and toddler coffee meetings. The family have one pet cat and a rabbit. She is a member of the Cornwall Childminding Association, the National Childminding Association and the St Austell childminding support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and warm home, which is kept to suitable standards of hygiene by the childminder. Surfaces such as tables and play mats used by children are wiped clean,

which reduces the spread of infection. Children use a suitable range of equipment to help develop independent toilet skills. However, they do not use individual methods of hand drying; the use of shared hand towels puts them at risk of cross infection. The childminder has current first aid training. She has suitable systems in place to record details of any accidents to children or medicine administered to them, this helps to support children's good health.

Children's dietary needs are met effectively; the childminder cooks children suitably nutritious meals and snacks. She offers regular drinks of water throughout the day. Individual dietary needs are met by the childminder using information provided by parents on registration.

Children have opportunities to learn about keeping healthy through regular exercise. There is a spacious garden with access to a range of equipment, such as ride on toys and a slide, to help children develop spatial awareness and climbing skills. Children take regular walks for fresh air, to the local park to use the equipment to develop large muscle strength and to nearby farmers' fields to see the horses.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an effectively organised home. The childminder has minimised risks indoors in order to make sure that children are safe and secure whilst in her care. Children are kept safe from possible hazards by the correct positioning of safety equipment, for example, socket covers, safe low-level glass and smoke detectors. Children are secure and cannot leave the premises unsupervised.

Children can safely select for themselves from the range of age-appropriate toys and resources available. These are stored in accessible shelving and presented in a range of toy boxes and tabletop activities. The childminder provides younger children with carefully presented toys that are safe, suitable and present no harm. They play safely on a floor mat with good support and supervision from the childminder.

The childminder understands the procedures to follow to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has all the relevant publications, and knows what to do in order to deal with child protection issues. She has recently attended training to help her recognise signs and symptoms of child abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled with the childminder. The childminder is patient and has a sound awareness of children's individual needs and, as a result, children start to flourish. They benefit from access to a good range of activities provided by the childminder to engage their interest. They make their own choices from a wide range of age-appropriate resources such as, small world toys, role-play props, craft materials, books, puzzles and musical instruments. All children learn about their local environment through visits to local parks and by exploring the nearby farmer's fields. They socialise and mix with other children at coffee mornings and childminding groups.

The childminder is aware of the Birth to three matters framework as a planning resource for younger children. Her practice shows that she provides a good range of experiences for younger children to help them develop. For example, by providing correctly proportioned equipment

and feeding utensils, by sitting together to share books, painting and craft activities, and by exploring toddler musical toys designed to aid sensory development. Children benefit from positive interaction with the childminder; she develops vocabulary by sharing books and counting skills as children take off and pair up their socks, thus encouraging their learning as she joins in their play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are supported effectively by the childminder. She is unruffled and patient and has a sound awareness of children's individual needs and, as a result, children are able to settle comfortably and feel at ease with her. The childminder has a good understanding of methods to use to manage children's behaviour and has recently attended training on this area in order to refresh her skills. She has a calm and consistent approach to children, praising good manners, encouraging toddlers to share toys and effectively distracting them and redirecting their attention during minor squabbles.

Children are able to learn about their community as they visit local childminding groups, village shops and farms. They have access to a limited range of resources, to help them learn about people whose lifestyles are different from their own. At present, the childminder is not caring for any children with additional needs, however, she has done so in the past and knows whom to contact for advice and support should this be needed.

The childminder has relaxed, informal relationships with parents. She ensures that regular conversations keep parents informed about their child. New parents receive sufficient information about the childminder's practice. Contracts are completed and signed by parents. They provide all the consents and information needed to enable the childminder to meet children's individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from being cared for by a dedicated and organised childminder, who is committed to providing quality care. The childminder has completed all mandatory training and has recently attended a variety of courses to up date her skills and knowledge. Children are cared for in a home where space and resources are effectively arranged to meet children's needs. Well-managed numbers allow the childminder to offer very good levels of individual support to children. The childminder uses appropriate levels of supervision to keep children safe and secure within her home. Children experience a stimulating variety of play and learning opportunities and regularly spend time in the fresh air as well as in the childminder's home.

Daily attendance records are completed appropriately. Comprehensive paperwork is available to support the childminder's practice. This is well organised to promote the care and welfare of children. Required paperwork is shared appropriately with parents. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to improve her understanding of dealing with complaints. She has now read all required guidance, produced information for parents on how they can make a complaint and how she will deal with their concerns. The childminder was

asked to obtain parental consents for seeking emergency medical advice and treatment and to administer medication to their child, these are now in place and used correctly.

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):

- reduce the risk of cross infection from shared hand towels by providing individual hand drying facilities.

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