



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223455
Inspection date	16 May 2005
Inspector	Janette Elizabeth Owen

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 has been registered since 1992. She lives with her husband and family, two adult children and one child aged ten years, close to the centre of the city of Hereford. Minded children have access to the ground and first floor only and there is a fully enclosed rear garden, children are also taken on walks and outings.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding 3 children under five. The childminder attends local toddler groups. The family has six guinea pigs, housed outside and a budgerigar and fish in the house.

The childminder supports children with special educational needs. 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 clean and well maintained family home. They are encouraged to learn about personal hygiene through daily routines and are beginning to take responsibility for their own hand washing. There are good arrangements in place to minimise any risk of infection from the pets. The childminder has completed Infection Control training and puts this knowledge into practice in order to minimise any risks to children.

Suitable procedures are followed to ensure accident and medication records are completed appropriately and a written policy relating to sick children is available which is shared with parents.

Children are provided with sufficient food and drink to meet their needs. The childminder uses information provided by parents about children's diet and routines to ensure that their instructions are followed and the children's individual needs are met. The childminder is flexible about arrangements for providing meals and snacks and is able to offer a nutritious cooked meal if required. Meal times are used as a sociable occasion where children can begin to learn good social skills and manners.

Children are encouraged to take part in physical activities which help to promote their health and wellbeing. They are taken out regularly on walks and outings, the garden is used daily and structured physical play sessions enable children to develop their co-ordination and muscles as they run, climb and pedal. The childminder has a clear understanding of the importance of physical exercise in keeping children healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a wide and varied range of age appropriate toys and equipment which is maintained in a clean, safe condition. Toys are rotated to maintain children's interest and additional toys obtained from the local toy library further enhance the children's play opportunities. Space is organised to provide areas for children to play safely indoors and outside, they have a quiet area for rest and sleep.

Children are well supervised, the childminder is very aware of safety issues and has taken the necessary steps to reduce potential hazards to children. She ensures children's safety when out on walks and when using the car by ensuring correctly fitted car seats are used and encouraging children to walk correctly, holding hands or wearing reins. Children are encouraged to learn about road safety when out walking and older children are encouraged to help show younger children how to walk safely.

Their use of the garden and play equipment is monitored to ensure their safety.

Children learn about house rules and safety, the childminder explains what is acceptable and safe and assesses potential risks taking into account the age of children. A written fire evacuation procedure is displayed and fire safety equipment is fitted and maintained in good working order. Children do not yet practice fire drills due to their young age.

The childminder has completed training and has written procedures in place to ensure children's welfare is promoted, she holds a current first aid certificate and follows local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are able to develop and explore new ideas and experiences through everyday routine activities. There are very good opportunities for children to observe and explore the wider world through regular walks, outings and when handling the pet guinea pigs. The children are able to socialise and develop their personal skills when they meet new children during sessions at toddler groups and when visiting other childminders. Children are developing their language and communication skills through conversation, books and stories. The childminder has an understanding of Birth to three matters and is able to provide activities and experiences suitable for very young children. She interacts well with young children and babies using good body language and eye contact, responding well to babies methods of communication.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder takes time to get to know the children in her care, a well structured settling in procedure enables parents to share information on the child while the childminder and child get to know each other. She has suitable arrangements in place for the regular exchange of information with parents and is beginning to develop the use of a daily diary as a means of sharing information following the request of a parent who finds this very useful and informative.

The childminder has high expectations for good behaviour and sets realistic boundaries for the children. They respond well to the strategies used to promote good behaviour and children's self esteem. Children are learning to be helpful and considerate, they learn to play co-operatively and are happy to join in and to share toys with other children when visiting toddler groups.

The childminder regularly attends special needs training in order to keep up to date on methods of providing suitable care for a child identified with special needs. She has good arrangements in place to obtain information on children's individual needs and works closely with parents to ensure all children's needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is well organised and has a business like approach to childminding resulting in parents and children receiving good information and care. She regularly attends training in order to keep up to date on new information and has produced some written policies to back her work practices. She keeps accurate records relating to the children and regularly updates her information and contracts held with parents. Children benefit from a well organised environment, they are able to access a good range of resources and develop their independence.

A good relationship has been developed with parents who benefit from her flexibility, she is able to respond to requests and provides parents with support, this contributes to continuity in the children's care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has improved hygiene procedures. Children are encouraged to learn how to wash their hands and when it is necessary to do so. They are beginning to take responsibility for their own personal hygiene.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- continue to develop arrangements for sharing information with parents.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and*

concerns about inspectors' judgements which is available from Ofsted's website:
www.ofsted.gov.uk