

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	101152
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 August 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Angela Cole
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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, adult son and daughter aged 16 years. They live in a detached house in the Wymans Brook area of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire. There are local shops and a park within walking distance. The whole of the downstairs is registered for childminding purposes and there is a fully-enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five years who attend on a part-time basis and one child over five years during the holidays. She offers full or part-time care throughout the year and cares for children over eight years of age. She has the use of a seven-seater people carrier and offers a before and after-school service for children, collecting from any school in the area. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have appropriate opportunities to learn the importance of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They have free access to fresh air and exercise with large and small play equipment, such as a slide, trampoline and scooter. They regularly go on walks to the park with large and small climbing and balancing equipment.

The children are cared for in the well-maintained, clean home. They learn about personal hygiene through satisfactory routines by using regularly changed towels. Arrangements for the administration of first aid ensure that children are treated appropriately, though not all items in the first aid kit are suitable for children or in date. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of how to complete medication documentation, so that children are cared for appropriately if they become ill.

Children have regular access to drinks and enjoy the iced water provided. Their individual dietary needs are effectively met following their parents' wishes and their preferences are valued. The children enjoy a healthy and balanced diet of home-made meals, that include fruit and fresh vegetables from the family's allotment.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the safe environment where resources, such as books and toy vehicles, are on view to attract their attention when they arrive. The premises are neat, tidy and of an appropriate temperature, so children are safe and comfortable. They play with floor and table-top games in the dining room and have ready access to the garden with a large table for craft activities, such as painting. All of the quality equipment meets the needs of the children and is age-appropriate so they can use it safely.

The premises are sufficiently secure so children do not leave unsupervised. The childminder is aware of most potential hazards and takes steps to minimise the danger to children through informal, daily checks. She supervises them so they do not come into contact with household chemicals or sharp tools in the new kitchen, though the fire blanket is not yet sited to be immediately to hand. Children begin to think about their own safety, as they discuss how to leave the house in an emergency and learn to cross roads safely.

The childminder safeguards and promote children's welfare and has a suitable understanding of required procedures. She holds a current first aid certificate and has booked training to further develop her understanding, of how to protect children and respond to any child protection concern.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

The children are happy and enjoy their time with the childminder. She follows a flexible, appropriate routine so the day is based around their care needs to include quiet and active times. Children are involved in a broad range of activities to make good progress in all areas of their development. They effectively gain language skills in interesting conversations and as

they share favourite books together. They are well encouraged to think, as they build with bricks and count to solve problems connected with board games.

Children freely use their imagination in role play, for example, connected with family situations. They enjoy developing their creative skills as they access a wide range of materials, including those for drawing and sticking. Children eagerly explore as they shop in the locality and go on longer visits to exiting places, such as a theme park. They notice details and are keen to investigate natural materials as they plant flowers and watch mini beasts, such as a 'flower spider' on its web.

The childminder takes a good interest in what children say and do, so that she follows and supports their play. She encourages them to make decisions and responds positively to their requests for specific activities, such as baking and icing home-made cakes. She offers encouragement while allowing the children to be independent and find out for themselves. For example, they build on their own interests as they eagerly make dens, and the childminder makes available a large selection of covers to provide an increasing challenge.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle happily and relax in the childminder's home so they gain self-esteem. All are cared for as individuals, as their needs are taken into account and their differences are valued. Children of different ages enjoy playing together so they share toys and take turns. Their social skills are further encouraged on visits to local children's groups and in play with children of other childminders. Children begin to learn about diversity through the satisfactory range of equipment, which promotes knowledge and understanding, including dolls, books and jigsaws with positive images.

The children behave well as, from a young age, they follow clear guidelines about what is acceptable and are kept occupied and stimulated. They benefit from frequent praise for their achievements and interest. They follow the childminder's effective role model so they willingly co-operate, for example, in familiar tasks, such as hanging the washing.

Children benefit from the friendly relationships the childminder develops with parent and carers. New families are made welcome on visits and the childminder verbally shares information about her provision. She listens carefully so the children's support follows their parents' wishes; she obtains most written permissions regarding their health and safety, though not for children to regularly sleep in their buggies. Families are suitably informed about the children's progress through daily conversation and in diaries about the care of the youngest children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children's care is satisfactorily supported by basic, clear documentation. This is neatly maintained, including the children's register that is completed during each day. The childminding records are accessible, stored securely and confidentiality is suitably maintained. The childminder has a log to record any complaint and this is compliant with Ofsted's requirements. Most written permission are obtained and children's records are routinely shared so parents and carers are kept up-to-date.

The childminder has many years of relevant experience and attends necessary training. Satisfactory use is made of space and of the plentiful resources, so children are effectively supported to play and develop in the relaxed, family atmosphere. The childminder organises her time effectively, so required ratios are maintained at all times and children have appropriate levels of adult support throughout the day. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Following the previous care inspection, the childminder was recommended to improve the documenting of any behavioural incident, procedures to seek prior consent for emergency medical advice or treatment and her knowledge of child protection.

She knows how to keep a record of significant incidents relating to behaviour and would ensure that parents are informed of the incident on the same day. This has improved the support for children to make a positive contribution to the provision. The childminder now requests written consent from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, so that the care for children's health is improved. She has also considered appropriate procedures to be followed if an allegation of abuse were ever made against a member of the household. This has improved the safety of the provision for the children.

### **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 the contents of the first aid kit are appropriate, checked frequently and replaced as necessary
- make sure the fire blanket is suitably located to be accessible
- obtain written permission for children to regularly use alternative sleeping arrangements.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)