

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	106878
Inspection date	01 August 2007
Inspector	Valerie Anne Curotto

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 1985 and is a member of the National Childminding Association. She lives with her husband and two adult sons in the Redfield area of Bristol. Childminding takes place on the ground floor of the house and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for up to six children under eight years of age and there are currently six children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from regular opportunities for outdoor play which promotes their physical development. They play ball games in the garden and manoeuvre sit and ride toys along the path. They enjoy outings to local parks where they enjoy the additional space and develop their coordination using a variety of equipment. Children learn to protect their own health as they help themselves to drinks, prepared for them, throughout the day. They have a clear understanding of the colour coded system which supports hygiene and identification of their own cups. Children develop suitable hygiene practices as the childminder reminds them to wash

their hands before meals. Arrangements to reinforce sun awareness and the need to protect themselves during outdoor play are less effective. Children readily recount examples of balanced, home cooked meals the childminder provides for them, which regularly include vegetables and fruit. Formats are available to record information about children's accidents and medication administered. However, these are insufficient and as a result, accident records do not include parents' signatures. This is a breach of regulations.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn to take responsibility for their own safety as the childminder reinforces boundaries for safe play. They are reminded to take turns during physical games, for example, hopscotch and show consideration for younger children. Children are safeguarded on outings as suitable arrangements are in place, such as appropriate use of car seats and reins for younger children on walks. Children have access to a wide range of equipment which is generally accessible in a ground floor room. While this lacks effective organisation, children are familiar with what is available and obtain favourite items with the childminder's support. Children benefit from use of space throughout the ground floor and garden for their activities. This enables them to play in a variety of environments and provides younger children with space to play safely. The childminder has sufficient understanding of the local authority's role in safeguarding children to take appropriate action should it become necessary.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a suitable combination of home based play and activities in the local community, such as park trips and bowling. They appear secure in the relaxed and friendly atmosphere within the home. While activities are not planned to impact on individual children's development, children are sufficiently occupied throughout the day as activities are varied appropriately. These are generally child led, and include an interesting range of craft activities, such as puppets, painting and seasonal cards which children enjoy doing together. Young children concentrate as they manipulate beads to make a pattern or complete dot to dot puzzles. Children share their achievements proudly with the childminder who offers praise and encouragement. The childminder is involved in their activities and older children offer additional support. Good use is made of the garden as activities, such as painting are extended outside, as well as physical activities with balls and bikes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are included as children of different ages participate in the same activity. Some resources, such as activity books are provided by the childminder to appeal to individual children's interests. Children increase their self esteem through regular creative activities. They take pride in kit bags they have made and readily discuss photographs of previous activities. They have regular opportunities to engage with the natural environment during park visits and with the local community during the walk to school. While young children do not routinely attend local groups, they develop social skills within the setting as they interact with older children. Children generally behave well as the childminder reinforces clear boundaries and expectations. Information about their children's care is exchanged each day through informal

discussion with parents. However, parents are not routinely advised of how to make a complaint and the childminder's knowledge of suitable procedures is not extensive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder generally offers out of school care, with limited placements for children under three. This enables younger children to receive sufficient attention as they benefit from contact with older children, including their brothers or sisters. Most required documentation, including contracts and a register is in place. However, there are insufficient measures in place regarding children's health records. While the childminder does not routinely assess her training needs, she has undertaken required training to update her first aid certificate. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Two recommendations were made at the last inspection. These concerned resources and activities to develop positive images of disability and garden safety. While no specific resources have been acquired, children develop an understanding of disability in spontaneous discussion with the childminder. The childminder is aware of the availability of additional resources, from other sources, such as the library. The childminder continues to be aware of potential hazards to children in the garden and take appropriate action, as necessary.

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 records relating to children's health are sufficient to meet requirements
- review the organisation of equipment and activity planning to impact further on individual children's development
- ensure parents are made aware of an appropriate complaints procedure

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