

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	101020
Inspection date	26 July 2007
Inspector	Shirley Ann Jackson

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 has been caring for children for almost 20 years. She lives in a three-bedroom, semi-detached house, in the area of Tuffley on the outskirts of Gloucester. She lives there with her husband and their two pet cats. The whole of the house is available for childminding. There is a garden available for outdoor play. Their home is within walking distance of local shops, parks, library and school.

There are currently four children on roll aged from four to 11 years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop an awareness of positive hygiene practices as they follow established daily routines. For example, they wash their hands before eating and dry them using paper towels. Children's health is supported as the childminder has procedures in place for dealing with accidents and she holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder ensures the risk of cross

infection is minimised as parents are made aware of the importance of keeping sick children at home.

Children are offered a balanced and nutritious range of meals and snacks. The childminder takes into account any dietary requirements which children may have, helping to keep them healthy. Children have access to drinks throughout the day at the childminder's home; this ensures they stay hydrated.

Children have regular opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school each day, during term time. During the school holidays the childminder takes the children to a nearby park where they can play on the equipment or they enjoy active play in the childminder's garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move safely around the childminder's home. They are kept safe as the childminder supervises them well and takes account of children's stage of development when identifying and minimising risks. However, the childminder has not practised fire drills with the children. This does not help to familiarise children with emergency evacuation procedures. Children's safety is promoted when on outings through the childminder's use of appropriate safety procedures. These are put into practise daily as children walk to and from school.

Children are offered a suitable range of resources to play with. They are able to access some resources for themselves. Toys and equipment are good quality and are well maintained. The childminder supervises children's choice of resources to make sure they are suitable for their stage of development.

The childminder safeguards the children in her care as she has a satisfactory knowledge of the indicators of abuse and neglect. She is aware of the correct procedures to follow if she has any concerns about a child in her care. This helps to promote children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well in the childminder's home and enjoy their play. The childminder offers them a suitable range of activities and resources to play with. Children are able to choose some activities for themselves, such as, the modelling kits. Children develop self-esteem and confidence as they interact positively with the childminder and she is available to help in their play as needed.

Children enjoy a range of activities which promote their creativity and imagination. For example, children build models using kits, paint, make scrapbooks and enjoy role play. Children are encouraged to do what they can for themselves, such as, mixing paint to make different colours. Children's communication skills are developed as the childminder talks to them about what she is doing. She listens to what they say and responds appropriately.

Young children benefit from routines which are consistent with those followed at home. They are offered some activities which promote their sensory development, such as, paint, play dough and cooking. Children show excitement and interest in what they do and are proud of their achievements, such as, making patterns with beads.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to take part in the local community as they go for visits to the library, walks to nearby shops and park. The childminder has a small range of resources which positively reflects the wider community. This limits children's awareness of diversity.

Children build positive relationships with the childminder, her husband and the other children attending. The childminder is aware of the individual needs of each child and offers the appropriate care. She has not been approached to care for children with learning difficulties or disabilities but she is willing to offer an inclusive setting and has some previous experience.

Children begin to learn about positive behaviour as the childminder gives them some positive praise as they play. When behaviour becomes unacceptable the childminder encourages the children to apologise and take time out to think about their actions. The childminder gives children the opportunity to choose what they would like to do, such as, building models. This helps to build their confidence and self-esteem.

The childminder tries to build positive working relationships with parents. Details of children's needs are obtained before care starts ensuring consistency of care. The childminder is available to chat to parents at the beginning and end of the day. This helps to keep parents informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children settle well and are comfortable in the childminder's home. The childminder organises her home to enable the children to move freely from room to room, depending on which activity they are taking part in. The childminder is on hand to help the children in their play if they need her, for example, making the cardboard snake.

All legally required documentation is in place, is appropriately maintained and is available for inspection. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the range of the children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to; ensure an appropriate first aid course is completed and increase resources available to the children that reflect diversity.

Children's health has improved as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. The childminder has purchased a few resources which positively reflect the wider community but there is scope to improve this further.

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 children are aware of emergency evacuation procedures
- continue to extend the resources and activities offered to raise children's awareness of the wider community

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