

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	100744
Inspection date	03 October 2007
Inspector	Glenda Sinclair
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 first registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and three adult children. They live in Lydney near Gloucestershire, within easy travelling distance of many Welsh border villages and Coleford. Some areas of the ground floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed patio available for outside play. The childminder takes children to and collects them from Primrose Hill Church of England School and some local nurseries. She attends local play groups and takes children to the park.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and currently has 10 children on roll, all of whom attend part-time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that younger children receive all the physical reassurance they need to settle and develop a sense of emotional well-being. If children are left uncertain by their parent's departure, she uses distraction to divert their attention until they have settled. Good

hygiene procedures are in place. The childminder helps children to learn about their personal care as she reminds them to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Children use paper towels to dry their hands, which minimises the risk of cross infection. Nappy changing procedures are also appropriate. The childminder responds to a child's own needs for sleep rather than adhering to a strict routine. Parents inform her if their child has had a disturbed night and her routine is adjusted accordingly. Children have ample opportunities for fresh air and exercise as they walk to and from school, play with balls in the park or walk around the lake to feed the ducks.

The childminder does not normally provide food for children, attending during the day, other than the occasional snack of fruit. She provides toast for children, who attend after school, which they eat sitting around the table talking about their day. However, she ensures that children's food is kept fresh by storing perishables in the refrigerator. She takes food out of lunch boxes and puts items on to a plate. In this way, she ensures that children eat healthy options first. She encourages independence by encouraging younger children to hold a spoon and try to feed themselves, at the same time as she is feeding them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder pays close attention to all aspects of safety and security. Her home is clean, bright and child-friendly. Side gates are bolted and outer doors are kept locked to ensure that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. Toys and equipment are clean and in a good, safe condition. Most are easily accessible to older children. The childminder teaches children about road safety and about 'stranger danger'. She has all the correct safety equipment in place to protect children from fire and holds occasional fire drills, so that children are aware of the procedure to follow. Dangerous substances are stored safely to protect children from harm and sharp knives are kept covered with sheaths, when not in use.

The childminder has completed child protection training. She is aware of the possible signs and indicators of abuse and she is also familiar with the procedure to follow, if she has concerns about the safety or welfare of any child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a range of age-appropriate activities to stimulate children's learning across all areas of their development. She sits on the floor with little children at their level, asking questions, looking at books and naming objects, singing, playing pretend and making every effort to encourage the development of speech and language. Children go out on outings to socialise with other childminders and their children and enjoy all the usual activities such as playing with sand, playdough and icing cakes. Children, who attend after-school, have the opportunity to relax and choose their own activities in the limited time available before their parents collect them. They can choose to play board games, watch videos or play suitable computer games.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder attends to each child's individual needs. She encourages all children to join in with activities, adapting them as necessary for the younger children. She has resources, which present a positive view of the diversity within society, including a Makaton video of nursery rhymes. She has cared for children with learning difficulties or disabilities and is prepared to do so again, provided that the amount of care required does not impinge on her care for other children. The childminder has appropriate strategies in place for managing children's behaviour. She ignores as much poor behaviour as possible, uses distraction when practicable and gives praise to reward and encourage good behaviour.

The childminder has a good partnership with parents. She uses a daily diary to keep the parents of babies and toddlers informed of their child's day. Otherwise, she talks to parents regularly and gives them copies of photos of their child at play. Parents recently completed questionnaires for the childminder and their response was very positive.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She organises her home and her time well. This allows children to play happily, in safety. She has been childminding for many years and is both experienced and very well qualified. She is actively involved in committee work for both the local childminding groups and the National Childminding Association. Her first-aid and child protection training is up to date. She records the actual times of children's arrival and departure in her register and both her accident and medication records are completed appropriately to ensure that children are properly protected. She has policies in place to cover many aspects of her work and has used the National Childminding Association's permission forms to gain most of the necessary parental permissions. However, she made an administrative error and not all parents have been asked to give their permission for her to seek emergency advice or treatment for their child. This poses a potential risk to some children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, the childminder was asked to make sure that the registration system records the presence of all the minded children. She was also asked to ensure that written contracts and child record sheets are available for every child. Both of these systems have been amended to ensure that proper records are kept. Children are now suitably protected should an historical record be required.

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):

- ensure that written permission is requested from all parents to seek emergency advice or treatment.

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