



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	101056
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 May 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Jennifer Read

<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 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 1999 and may provide care for six children under eight years at any one time. She currently cares for two children under three years on a part-time basis and five children over five years before-and-after school during school terms. No overnight care is provided.

The childminder lives with her husband and 3 children aged 10, 13 and 16 in the Abbeymead area on the outskirts of Gloucester. The whole of the ground floor is available for the childminding. There is an enclosed rear garden with grass and patio areas for outside play. The family has a pet hamster.

The childminder has completed a first aid course for people working with children and babies, and child protection training. There are play parks, shops, a library, primary schools, playgroups and parent-and-toddler groups with the locality. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She is a member of the Minders of Gloucester.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, cheerful and warm home. Children's health is protected and they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through well-planned daily routines. Individual flannels are used for hand washing before and after meals, creative activities, outside play and using toilet facilities. Potty training and nappy changing routines are personal to each child and the youngest child has a growing awareness to hold out his hands to be washed. The childminder has completed an appropriate first aid course, to help ensure her knowledge is up-to-date and the children receive suitable treatment for minor injuries.

Children enjoy regular physical activities indoors and outdoors which promotes their well-being and helps them to gain control of their body as they acquire new physical skills. The youngest child is encouraged to develop his new walking and throwing skills as he eagerly runs up and down the living room chasing the football and various push-and-go vehicles. A child's welfare and needs are met well as the childminder recognises the signs of tiredness and provides a comfortable room to rest. All children have opportunities to run, jump, climb, walk and move around freely in the house, park, garden and childminding support groups. The childminder supports the older children in their healthy living programme at school by reinforcing walking to and from school most days.

Nutritious snacks and regular discussions with parents help children learn about a healthy diet. Suggestions for healthy options in children's lunch boxes are offered to parents and all food is heated and served appropriately. Meal times are used well to further children's social development because they all eat together around the dining table.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a safe, secure and suitable premises for children. She ensures risk of accidental injury is minimised by daily checks indoors and outdoors. Play areas are welcoming and spacious, and children make practical use of the various rooms for different activities. Children are beginning to have an understanding about staying safe as they learn the clear boundaries and rules in the setting and for outings. The childminder asks questions and talks to children about the consequences of their actions. Detailed and well-thought through procedures are

not in place to safeguard children's welfare and help promote their awareness of safe and appropriate action to take in an emergency.

There is a broad range of safe, well-maintained and age-appropriate toys, equipment and play materials. These are rotated regularly to extend children's choices, and are well organised to allow children to access them safely.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has suitable knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures. She has attended child protection training recently and has a general knowledge of action to take if she has concerns about a child in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are making good progress in their development and benefit from a wide and varied range of activities and experiences. They express their feelings and creativity through art-and-craft activities, cooking, home-made games, swimming, play dough and imaginary play with animals and cars. The younger children learn to socialise with other children in group situations through weekly visits to Coffee Pot and Noah's Ark groups, and Minders of Gloucester (MoG) monthly meetings. Children have daily outings to feed the squirrels and ducks at the local park and talk about the trees and local environment. These make experiences real and meaningful for them and help to broaden their language and awareness of their surroundings.

The younger children show interest and concentrate for long periods of time as they explore the shapes and dials on the cause-and-effect toys. They respond effectively to the challenges set and the praise and enthusiasm offered by the childminder. Children receive lots of cuddles and have a strong bond with the childminder which increases their sense of well-being. A child experiments using sounds and language to imitate and copy counting, and 'ready, steady, go' phrase in the game. The childminder and children communicate well with each other during play.

The childminder has a secure knowledge of appropriate experiences for children which helps enhance their creativity and physical development, and ensures they are learning new things each day. Opportunities for children to further develop their sensory and exploratory experiences is restricted. She meets the diverse age range of the children attending successfully and liaises closely with parents to gain an insight into their child's interests and stage of development.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and supported well in their emotional development as the childminder helps them to feel secure and settled by providing good support, praise and encouragement. She is familiar with their needs and takes steps to include them all in activities. The younger child benefits from a close relationship with

the childminder as they sit together, cuddle, and calmly interact when he wakes from his sleep to reintroduce him sensitively to play. Older children are beginning to manage their own behaviour and learn about the impact their actions have on others because the childminder questions and gives clear explanations so they can learn from their experiences.

The childminder is positive about adapting her practice and resources to help children participate alongside their peers and to meet their specific learning and care needs. For example, left and right-handed scissors, and attending additional training to increase her awareness of children's individual special needs. Children are gaining a greater understanding of the wider world around them as the childminder and her colleagues in MoG effectively plan activities to celebrate Red Nose Day, Diwali, Chinese New Year and other cultural festivals. Resources to reflect images of other cultures and disability are limited restricting children's access to help build their awareness of people's differences and similarities.

The childminder has established a good partnership with parents. The care of the children is promoted through written routines from parents for the younger children and detailed discussions about their likes, dislikes, interests and stage of development. She talks to parents about how they wish information to be shared about their child and organises social evenings to further improve relations. Time is given daily to share general information about children's care and progress and photograph albums are provided yearly to give parents an insight into their children's play and learning.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is motivated, perceptive and enjoys her work with the children. She recognises the importance of up-dating her training and is keen to attend additional training to increase her knowledge to promote the welfare and learning of the children. She has a developing awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and uses the information to gain ideas to improve children's achievements and experiences further. Resources and books are organised appropriately so they are readily available to children on a shelving unit in the dining room, and in various containers on the living room floor.

Children benefit from a well-organised setting which has good procedures in place to maintain accurate records of attendance, medication and first aid. Emergency contact details, doctors' information and written permissions from parents for emergency medical advice or treatment are recorded in a small book and kept with the childminder at all times. All records and documentation are well maintained, used appropriately and stored securely. Children's records are kept in alphabetical order in separate sections of a file to protect children's welfare and ensure confidentiality.

The childminder maintains appropriate adult to child ratios that ensure the children are happy and settled. Children's safety and well being are promoted because the childminder has good awareness of the vetting procedures to ensure children are never left alone with persons not cleared, and a clear understanding of the regulatory

requirements. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

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

The last inspection recommended that the childminder recorded accurate times of children's arrival and departure and requested written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has made appropriate improvements to protect children and ensure suitable levels of supervision are maintained. She records children's times of arrival and departure to the nearest ten minutes, and signs the register weekly to acknowledge the attendance. Good procedures are implemented to ensure children's health is promoted. Written permissions from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment are in place and stored appropriately in the emergency contact book for easy reference. This is kept in reach of the childminder at all times when on the premises or on outings.

### **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):

- ensure children's safety is promoted at all times, by devising and practising a well thought through emergency escape plan.

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