

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	100940
Inspection date	20 March 2008
Inspector	Bridgette Williams

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 lives with her husband and their son in a semi-detached property in a cul-de-sac on the outskirts of Tewkesbury. She has been a registered childminder for 20 years and provides childcare through her business name of Spencer Bear Childcare. She is currently registered for 12 children under eight years of age and works alongside one other registered childminder who also works from her home. There are also five assistants, four part time and one full time, all of whom are qualified in early years. Spencer Bear Childcare operates flexible hours around the times of 08.00 to 18.00 each day during 50 weeks of the year. The whole of the house is available for childcare. The main play areas are the playroom and dining area with the lounge used for quiet play. Upstairs is used for sleeping. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play and outings are organised to the local park and playground, shops and toddler groups.

The childminder also works as the Childcare Development Officer for childminders. She delivers training and offers advice and support to other childminders as part of this role.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children play in a clean environment where they learn to follow good personal hygiene practices. Children automatically wash their hands after visiting the toilet and when they have been playing outside; they understand the importance of these routines as they are provided with an explanation of the need to wash their hands. Effective procedures are in place when changing nappies such as wearing gloves. Children are protected from illness and infection as the childminder implements an effective sickness policy. Good procedures are in place regarding medication given and accidents; all relevant information is recorded and shared with parents and carers contributing towards the continuity of care provided for the children.

Children learn about healthy eating as the childminder encourages parents to provide fruit for snack times and healthy packed lunches. The warm interaction which takes place during this time helps children develop an understanding that meal times are social occasions. Drinks are always accessible so the children do not become thirsty.

Children develop their large muscle skills as they visit community parks and the local school. They enjoy the challenge of climbing up onto the wooden wobbly bridge and carefully negotiating their way across. They happily run around both at the parks and in the childminder's garden. Toddlers receive lots of warmth and affection. This supports their emotional well being and gives them confidence to explore new experiences, such as walking, which results in lots of smiles when managing to take a few steps.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a well organised environment that allows them to move around safely. They have some access to a good range of well maintained toys and resources that are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Children benefit from a good range of safety measures; for example socket covers and the storage of sharp knives in locked drawers. Regular fire drills help children become familiar with procedures so they learn how to leave the premises quickly and safely. Outside the garden is fully enclosed with the side gate being bolted. Children do not go outside unsupervised and young children are gently helped to negotiate the steps into the childminder's home. Children sleep according to their individual needs and are regularly checked when sleeping.

Children are well protected from abuse or neglect as the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibility to refer any concerns. Procedures in line with the local Safeguarding Children's Board are clearly displayed for all assistants and parents to see. These effective child protection procedures promote and safeguard children's welfare within the setting.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Happy and positive relationships exist between the children, the childminder and her co workers. Lots of warm interaction takes place and children receive cuddles when needed. There is a good range of toys and the children have access to some of the toys as they are stored in a variety of boxes and small wicker baskets. They enjoy and listen well to stories being told and get

excited as they sing their favourite action songs. Children play well as a group; they all contribute to completing a jigsaw with the childminder, but are also happy to play independently and act out their own scenarios when playing with the large puppets. The children are involved in craft work; for example, decorating pretend pizza bases. They contribute to large bright colourful displays with adult direction, such as Humpty Dumpty sitting on a wall; however, there are no examples of child initiated work displayed for children to share and recall their experiences with their peers. Children have good opportunities to develop problem solving techniques as they estimate how much paper is needed to cover boxes to make parcels, and discuss with an assistant how they are going to stick pieces of paper together using sticky tape. The children have good trusting relationships with all the co workers in the childminders home which provides them with the confidence to explore and investigate such as looking for worms in the garden and getting very excited as the minibeasts crawl over their hands.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children gain an understanding of the wider world through celebrating different topics, and through the use of a toy bear who goes on holiday with the children. The bear, the children and their families send postcards to their friends at the childminder's home from different countries, providing opportunities to explore the different cultures of the countries which the bear has visited, such as Spain and India. Children have access to toys which promote the diversity of society, for example small world figures who have disabilities and large puppets from different cultures.

Children learn about acceptable behaviour as the childminder is a positive role model who uses praise to encourage good behaviour. Children are very polite and play well along side each other. They are developing good independent skills as they confidently put on the own coats and shoes when going outside.

Effective links with parents exist: daily conversations and a written sheet ensures a good exchange of information takes place which contributes towards good continuity of care for the children. Parents are shown all the written policies. The childminder seeks the views of parents as she gives them a written questionnaire and uses the information to enhance her service. The childminder displays a poster on the parents notice board informing parents of the contact details of the regulator.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from the childminder being well qualified. They feel comfortable in her home where they move safely and play happily. The childminder has good policies and procedures in place which are shared with parents, although not all are fully implemented, such as children walking on slippery laminated floors in socks. All legally required paperwork relating to children's health, safety and well-being is in place. Written records on each child are stored in their own file, paying good regard to confidentiality. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has taken effective action to address the recommendation from the last inspection. She has introduced her assistants to the resources available from the toy library

and holds regular staff meetings where any information gained on courses is cascaded to other co workers.

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):

- extend displays to provide opportunities for child initiated work to be displayed

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