



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223769
Inspection date	24 October 2005
Inspector	Dianne Andrews

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 has been registered since 1990. She lives with her husband in a detached, dormer bungalow in a North Shropshire village. The kitchen, playroom, utility, cloakroom and front room are used while providing a childminding service. The garden to the rear of the property and an enclosed hard area to the front of the property are available for outdoor activities. The childminder works with an assistant. They take children to the local school and are within walking distance of amenities within the village.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the

Shropshire Childminding Network. She is registered to care for 9 children under 8 years, when working with her assistant, and presently has 5 children on roll. Most attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their good health. They learn about how the body works through discussion and informative books. Each day there are outdoor activities to help them develop control of their bodies, for example as they dig in the garden and ride on wheeled toys. Activities in the outdoor area, such as the exploration of falling autumn leaves and walks in the local environment, encourage children to develop a healthy lifestyle and help to improve children's physical skills.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They have a good understanding of why they must wash their hands before lunch or after using the toilet. The clear procedures in place for infectious children help limit the spread of infection. The setting's health and hygiene policy underpins the generally good practice in order to keep children healthy. However, the procedures for nappy changing and the use of communal towels for drying hands in the bathroom, pose a risk to children of cross infection.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. Older children help themselves to drinking water whenever they get thirsty and younger children are provided with regular drinks throughout the day. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and the children's choices to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to them. She meets their dietary needs well and ensures that children develop a healthy approach to eating.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a secure environment where risks are effectively identified, through a regular safety review, and minimised. This means that they are able to move around freely and independently. Children learn to keep themselves safe, for instance, through the introduction of topics to encourage children to be aware of the danger of strangers and to teach them where they can go for help. Young babies are encouraged to crawl around the room safely and as they get older they learn that they need to be careful as they manoeuvre around the toys.

The well organised, welcoming surroundings enable older children to move freely between activity rooms and to access toys and resources, with support, to promote their independent learning. Toys and resources are plentiful, of good quality and meet safety standards. The range is very suitable for the varying ages of children attending, providing well for their play preferences and needs.

The childminder has attended training to broaden her knowledge of the Area Child Protection Committee's procedures in order to ensure that children in her care are well protected from harm or neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are included in an excellent range of activities to encourage their development in all areas. They show a positive attitude to learning as they build an autumnal picture together, developing language skills as they talk about what squirrels like to eat and discussing new words such as hibernation. They share responsibility about what to do next and are encouraged by the supportive assistant childminder, who offers appreciation for their ideas and input. Children learn to appreciate the natural world and are extremely excited about their planned play in the falling leaves. They benefit from a successful balance between free play and structured activities and are especially encouraged to make use of the outdoor environment as a resource. They make rapid progress in all aspects of their development.

Younger children join in the activities enthusiastically because the childminder makes good use of the Birth to three framework. Her understanding about appropriate types of activities and levels of support gives them confidence to try out new skills. They enjoy being part of a group and are also encouraged to develop their independence, for instance, as they use push along toys with developing competence. Observational records on children's development are informative, are shared with parents regularly and are used effectively to move children on in their learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children are exceptionally well supported because a highly effective partnership between the childminder and parents ensures children are secure and their individual needs met. Children and parents play an active part in the setting as they share in decisions about the provision. Parents are offered opportunities to be actively involved in their children's care and progression through suggested extension and consolidation activities, which they enthusiastically carry out at home.

Relationships are excellent. Children have a very good understanding of their own needs, show respect for the needs of others and are gain awareness of the wider community through interesting and stimulating activities such as looking at the Hindu festival, Raska Bandhan and making foods which are typical to the festival.

Behaviour is of a consistently high standard. Children are fully aware of the boundaries, which are discussed openly with both parents and children, as a consequence children fully understand responsible behaviour. Methods for managing inappropriate behaviour are regularly reviewed to determine their effectiveness, always ensuring that children's safety is given priority. As a result children are secure

and settled within the childminder's care.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children's care is significantly enhanced by the management of the provision. The childminder is exceedingly organised in her approach and uses documented checklists to help her review practice in care and education. Through her effective systems she ensures that she knows what needs to be done and when, allowing her to spend more quality time with the children in the knowledge that things are well organised. Her attendance at numerous training events and her participation in a quality review scheme ensures that the very best outcomes for children are promoted. She shares her good practice with newly registered childminders through a mentor system, which means that other children can benefit from her experience.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that a newly installed bathroom heater was made safe and that records, detailing injuries that a child presents on entry to the setting, are maintained. Children's safety has been promoted through the appropriate completion of both recommendations.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 hygiene practice, in the areas of hand washing and nappy changing, protect children from the risk of cross infection.

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