

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	154774
Inspection date	15 January 2008
Inspector	Rosemary Davies

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 registered in 1993. She lives with her two teenaged children. Their home is in the Coleview area of Swindon, Wiltshire. Shops, a park, library and other town amenities lie within walking distance. The childminder can take children to and collect them from, local schools and pre-schools. The family keeps a number of guinea pigs as pets.

Minded children may use the entire house, although in practice usually remain downstairs. A fully enclosed rear garden is available for outside play. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. Her registration permits her to care for six children under the age of eight years, at any one time. She currently minds a total of six children aged from one to eight years, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children use extremely clean premises. The childminder follows thorough daily routines to keep her home clean and to prevent the spread of cross-infection. She is meticulous in washing her

hands when required and thus provides a good role model to the children. Children learn excellent personal hygiene procedures. They follow the hand-washing pictures displayed and know which is their personal hand-towel. Parents receive clear guidance in the childminder's Health Policy as to when they must keep their children at home. The childminder makes them fully aware of her duty to inform the regulator, Ofsted, about any public health issues, providing parents with a list of diseases that are considered notifiable.

Children bring packed meals and snacks to sustain them through the day. The childminder refrigerates any perishable items to keep them fresh. Occasionally, she provides snacks herself but whilst these are usually of fresh fruit, sometimes sweet biscuits are offered, which are not a healthy option. Further, when children engage in cooking activities, these are centred on making sweet, less healthy foods. Children drink according to their needs, with fresh drinking water being readily available. Children make regular use of the spacious back garden, developing their skills as they use the wide range of physical play equipment. They get daily fresh air and plenty of exercise. Younger children enjoy moving to music indoors and using the indoor physical play equipment, such as a rocker and suitable slide.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children use an extremely warm and welcoming homely environment. Younger children play mostly in a designated playroom, which offers a wealth of high quality, exceptionally well-maintained toys and resources. Older children tend to use another room containing a large table at which they play table-top games, engage in craft activities or do their homework. A computer is available too and the childminder is vigilant in its use, ensuring that all modern technology resources are used appropriately, so children are safeguarded.

The childminder has identified and minimised risks to children's safety exceedingly well. Children remain safe when in her home, outside in the garden or when on outings in the local community. Appropriate fire prevention precautions are in place, with fire exits clearly marked. Children practice the emergency evacuation procedure regularly, so learning how to keep themselves safe. The childminder notes carefully any improvements to be made for the future. The childminder supervises children closely at all times. She helps them understand the dangers surrounding them, such as from reversing cars in the busy car park at school collection time. Children learn about crossing roads safely, being actively encouraged to help decide when it is safe to cross.

The childminder fully understands her responsibilities for safeguarding children's welfare. She provides a suitable written child protection policy for parents to read, so they are advised as to her duties. Children are safeguarded well because of her thorough understanding of this aspect of her childminding practice.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children of all ages enjoy their activities and experiences when with this childminder. The childminder plans these carefully to suit the needs of individual children. Babies and toddlers use a wide range of activity toys, squealing with delight whilst watching toy cars zoom down slopes, for example, or crawling quickly to fetch balls and fit them into the correct holes in shape games. They enjoy musical toys with the childminder encouraging them to join in with actions in nursery rhymes. The childminder devotes her time to these young children. She

encourages their physical development as they try to pull themselves up in attempts to walk. She interacts well with them, making frequent eye contact and constantly describing their actions as they do them, which will help them learn to talk. However, the childminder does not use the Birth to three matters guidance materials, so cannot be certain that she is covering all areas fully.

Older children all find something to suit their needs. They play table top games together, such as snakes and ladders, enjoy word searches or simply relax, 'chill out' and chat after the busy school day. She recognises the importance of supporting all children in doing homework, helping them practise their reading if they wish.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children evidently feel at ease in this childminder's home and are comfortable in her company, the youngest giggling with delight when tickled. They respond well to her words of encouragement, tackling the indoor slide, for example, and pulling themselves up to try and walk. All children behave very well because the childminder makes clear her expectations of them and adopts a very positive approach, praising children appropriately. She understands that some children have additional needs and has a clear understanding of how to care for such children, although none attend currently. Children begin to learn about the different families and people around them through using a range of resources that help them learn about diversity. The childminder works closely with parents to discover children's individual needs before they come to her. She provides parents with a good range of useful written information about her childminding practice. Parents are kept well informed of their children's progress and development, with parents of the youngest ones receiving regular written information.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder adopts a professional approach to her work. She understands her responsibility to make sure that all persons living in her home, over the age of sixteen years, have been cleared as being suitable to be with children. The childminder reflects on her practice and adapts it to improve what is offered to the children. In her garden, for example, a shady tree has been removed, therefore she has provided a gazebo to protect children from hot sunshine. However, she does not ensure that children always eat healthy options at snack and meal times. As yet, she has not had any training in the Birth to three matters framework, so this guidance is not used in planning. Nevertheless, she keeps up to date in other respects by accessing the Surestart and Ofsted websites. All legally required documentation is in place, kept confidentially and is readily available for inspection. The childminder organises her home, time and paperwork extremely well for childminding purposes. She has written a range of suitable policies. These underpin her practice well and are shared with parents. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection, the childminder was required to address three issues. These related to the giving of medication, the range of resources available and children's safety in the garden. The childminder has addressed each of the issues raised, as a result of which children's good health, their safety and the range of resources provided, have all been improved.

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

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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):

- further promote children's good health by reviewing activities and procedures to encourage healthy eating
- further develop planning methods by making use of the Birth to three matters guidance.

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