

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	102262
Inspection date	03 October 2007
Inspector	Julie Wright
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 1986. She lives with her husband and adult son. They live in a house in Par, near St Austell. Local shops, schools and other amenities are within walking distance. The whole of the ground floor, except the lounge, is used for childminding. The first floor bathroom and large front bedroom are also used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play. The family have two dogs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are currently seven children on roll who attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes children to local carer and toddler groups and is a member of the Restormel Childminding Group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from the risk of illness and cross-infection through effective health and hygiene procedures. The clear sickness policy is implemented well in practice to prevent the spread of infection to children. Children learn independent skills and are familiar with the

everyday hygiene routines. Accident and medication records are appropriately signed to promote the welfare of the children.

Children develop physical skills and coordination as they play in the garden with the outdoor toys. They also benefit from outings to the park and groups where they use larger apparatus, such as climbing frames.

Children's dietary requirements are discussed and agreed with parents to meet the needs of the children. The childminder provides savoury snacks, fresh fruit and regular drinks for the children. Children enjoy baking and also consider healthy or unusual foods, such as exotic fruits from other countries.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. They are familiar with the premises and confidently move around, independently accessing the resources. Space is used well to provide children with stimulating activities and to meet their care needs. Varied toys and play materials are available to suit children aged from birth to over eight years. The resources are well maintained, rotated to promote interest and are clearly organised.

Children become aware of fire safety as they practise a suitable evacuation plan. The childminder minimises the risk of accidents and hazards to children. Safety measures are in place throughout the home and suitable arrangements are made to ensure safe outings.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection issues. The relevant policy information is up to date and accessible. The childminder discusses with parents her responsibilities to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder and each other. They are settled, happy and stimulated in their play. The childminder provides a varied range of activities which promote children's learning and overall development. Older children make independent choices and decisions after school. For example, they may prefer to relax quietly, play in the garden or use creative materials. The childminder promotes inclusion and provides appropriate support to children. For instance, toddlers join in the painting activity and use their fingers and hands to make prints with. Language development is encouraged through stories, songs and sound repetition.

Children enjoy regular outings to toddler groups, the park, beach and nature areas. They benefit from a variety of experiences, such as playing in sand, snow and water. Children take part in themed events, for example, carving pumpkin faces at Halloween. The childminder interacts well with the children during their activities. She encourages children's learning in fun and interesting ways. For instance, shopping trips involve the children making their own lists and then looking for the items. The childminder demonstrates a sound awareness of child development and children make good progress in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children develop positive attitudes as they become aware of similarity and difference in people and places. They talk about different countries, clothes, food and native animals. The childminder has innovative ideas for resources which reflect positive images. For example, she researches the internet and makes jigsaw pictures for the children. The childminder knows the children well and meets their individual needs.

Children respond well to the positive, age-appropriate approach to behaviour management. They are secure in the care of the childminder and play cooperatively. The childminder promotes self-esteem with praise, encouragement and the recognition of children's achievements.

The childminder has good working relationships with parents. She provides an information file, which includes details of children's activities and a brief outline of the learning intention. Appropriate record keeping and regular discussions ensure consistent care for the children. Parents provide very positive feedback on all aspects of the care given.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for by the childminder. She provides consistent routines with varied activities, which promote welfare and meet individual needs. The childminder is effective in her organisation of her time and space. She attends relevant training to update her knowledge and also prepare for changes to recognised frameworks.

The majority of records and documentation are available for inspection, with the exception of the car documents. Appropriate details are maintained as required by the regulations, however, the recording procedures do not consistently ensure confidentiality. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of her responsibilities and a commitment to provide good quality care.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that the fire evacuation plan is devised and practised, and also to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. Since then the childminder has developed the fire safety procedures and sought the relevant emergency consents from parents. These actions result in improvements to the safety and welfare of children.

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 all records and documentation are available for inspection
- improve the procedures to record accident and medication details to ensure confidentiality.

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