



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	102404
Inspection date	05 September 2005
Inspector	Nicola Jayne Pascoe

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 was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband, one adult child and one senior school aged child, in Penryn, Cornwall. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children before and after school and two children under five on a part-time basis. The childminder drives to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent/toddler group, takes children to the local library, toy library and to the local park. The family has a dog, a rabbit and

guinea pigs.

The childminder is a member of the Cornwall Childminding Association (CCMA) and National Childminding Association (NCMA). She is a member of an approved childminding network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the use of clean and hygienic premises and resources. They are developing an understanding of the importance of maintaining personal hygiene, through regular hand washing before eating and following the use of paint. Individual paper towels are used for hand drying to avoid cross-infection. The children are able to fully enjoy the family pets, as suitable procedures are followed to ensure they do not present a risk to children's health.

Children's health is well maintained through the childminder's knowledge of first aid. A well-stocked first aid kit is available and accident records are shared appropriately with parents. Medication is stored and administered as required. Children are effectively protected from illness and infection, as the childminder follows suitable written sick child procedures.

Children are actively encouraged to participate in regular physical exercise. They have sufficient levels of indoor space to enjoy active play and they also make good use of the garden and local environment. Children dance, climb, run, jump, slide and enjoy countryside walks. They benefit from the promotion of healthy eating habits and are able to access fresh drinking water at all times. Food is stored appropriately and prepared hygienically.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from use of extremely well organised and child-centred premises. Age-appropriate safety equipment is provided for the range of children cared for. A comprehensive written risk assessment is used daily to ensure that children's safety is maintained at all times. Children enjoy free access to a wide selection of age-appropriate toys and resources which meet safety standards.

Children actively participate in regular fire drills. The fire equipment is serviced and maintained as required. Written parental consent is obtained to transport children by vehicle. Appropriate car seats and safety restraints are used. Suitable vehicle documents are readily available for inspection. A suitable written procedure is in place in the event of emergencies and is made available to parents.

Children are cared for in a secure environment. Unauthorised persons cannot enter the premises and children cannot leave unsupervised. There are good procedures in

place to ensure that children are collected by authorised persons. Children are never left unsupervised with persons who have not been checked for suitability. Children benefit from the childminder's confidence, knowledge and ability to follow appropriate child protection procedures. They are safe and secure in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children play enthusiastically and happily with the range of interesting and enjoyable toys and resources. They benefit from the high levels of interaction and support from the childminder, when sharing books and finger puppets and exploring hand and potato printing. Children have free access to a wide range of age-appropriate and stimulating toys. These are varied regularly through use of the toy library and rotation of resources by the childminder who carefully selects resources to meet the needs and preferences of the children attending.

Children participate in regular trips and outings. They visit the local park, toy library, toddler groups. They socialise on a regular basis with other local childminders and the children they care for. As a result, the children's development of social skills and their understanding and awareness of the wider community is promoted well.

Children are able to follow different themes each month. They explore their own and different cultures, growth and development and learn about the world around them. Children are supported appropriately, in order to enjoy active involvement in all the activities to their own level of ability. The indoor and outdoor environment is used fully by children to develop their physical skills and expand their knowledge of nature and growth.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are settled and happy. The childminder gathers good levels of information to ensure that children's individual needs and preferences are identified and met appropriately. Children receive high levels of support from the childminder, who prepares carefully to provide opportunities for them to spend time enjoying suitable and enjoyable activities. Children communicate confidently with the childminder who responds expressively and positively.

Children's differences are recognised and valued. Written equal opportunities and special needs policies are available to parents. Suitable resources are provided to positively promote an understanding of their own and different cultures. However, there are few opportunities for children to develop an awareness of people's differing abilities.

Children are well behaved and are encouraged to develop good manners. The childminder is a good role model and she provides high levels of praise and encouragement. There is a written behaviour management policy available for

parents. The importance of sharing information regularly with parents is recognised and is successfully achieved through a variety of appropriate methods. This in turn ensures that children receive appropriate standards of care at all times. As a result children are happy and confident.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are very well cared for by a suitable, qualified and experienced childminder. The childminder demonstrates a commitment to attending relevant training. As a result, children benefit from the ongoing evaluation and development in the standards of childminding practice. Children make free use of the well organised home environment and vast range of age appropriate and stimulating resources. Registration systems clearly show that adult: child ratios are met at all times.

Children benefit from the childminder's ongoing commitment to the use of effective systems to obtain information from other childcare professionals, in order to further develop her childminding practice. As a result, children are able to learn and develop in an extremely well organised environment.

Children's records are updated regularly and shared appropriately with parents. Confidentiality is maintained. All documentation is extremely well organised and provides good levels of evidence for parents of the high standards of care and childminding practice which are being followed. The regular and thorough exchange of information is used effectively to ensure the overall contentment of children. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to develop and implement a complaints procedure, ensure that the vehicle insurance includes business use and to maintain confidentiality of the incident records.

A suitable complaints procedure is now readily available for parents. Appropriate vehicle documentation is available for inspection. Incident records are kept confidential through the introduction of the use of separate incident sheets.

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):

- extend the range of resources to positively promote children's awareness and understanding of peoples differing abilities.

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