

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161552
Inspection date	05 June 2008
Inspector	Rachel Edwards

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and three children aged 10, six and three years, in a house in Devizes, Wiltshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, and on the first floor, children have access to one bedroom, a toilet and a bathroom. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area.

She is registered to provide care for three children under eight years, of these, not more than two may be under five years, and of these, not more than one may be under one year, at any one time. She has not cared for any children in the past three years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

The childminder does not have a sound understanding of suitable procedures to:

* promote children's good health, as the premises are not sufficiently clean. She does however ensure that appropriate measures are put in place when children are ill (National Standard 7: Health)

The childminder does ensure that food and drink for children is adequate, properly prepared, nutritious and complies with dietary and religious requirements. (National Standard 8: Food and drink).

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

* The childminder is unable to provide evidence that the poorly maintained gas fire in the living room is safe. In addition children are able to turn on the gas as the guard does not prevent access to the controls. There is not a working smoke detector on each level of the house. (National Standard 6: Safety)

* The premises are safe, secure and include the necessary facilities for children. The childminder demonstrates an awareness of how to ensure the environment is made welcoming to children. (National Standard 4: Physical environment)

* The furniture, equipment and toys are safe and appropriate for the needs of children. (National Standard 5: Equipment)

* The childminder has a sound knowledge of child protection procedures approved by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, and is aware of their responsibility to protect the welfare of the child. (National Standard 13: Child protection)

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

* The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of how individual children develop and learn. (National Standard 3: Care, learning and play)

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder:

* has an appropriate knowledge and awareness of the importance of treating each child with equal respect and concern (National Standard 9: Equal opportunities)

* is aware that some children may have learning difficulties or disabilities, and understands the importance of working in partnership with parents and with other professionals to promote the welfare and development of the child (National Standard 10: Special needs)

* shows a willingness and commitment to working with parents to manage children's behaviour in a consistent way which promotes the child's welfare and development (National Standard 11: Behaviour)

* has a satisfactory understanding of the need to develop a strong partnership with parents, taking into account their differing needs. (National Standard 12: Working in partnership with parents and carers)

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder:

* is aware of the duty to ensure that other people living or working on the premises are suitable to be in contact with children (National Standard 1: Suitable person)

* understands the importance of working within the constraints of the condition of registration relating to number of children; and of organising space and resources to best meet the needs of the children (National Standard 2: Organisation)

* has a sound awareness of the records to be kept and the importance of these. (National Standard 14: Documentation)

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection, the childminder was given two recommendations to improve the quality of care. She now has arrangements in place to protect children in case of an emergency and she has removed a large holly bush from the garden to create a more child friendly space to play in.

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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that the gas fire is safe and that the controls are inaccessible to children
- ensure there are working smoke detectors on each level of the house

- ensure that the sitting room floor and toilet are clean

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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