



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	132841
Inspection date	25 July 2005
Inspector	Sue Vernon
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 1988. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in a semi-detached house in a residential area of Bath which is within walking distance of local schools and facilities. She uses the downstairs rooms of her house for minding with access to the upstairs bathroom. There is an enclosed front garden for outside play, with additional visits to the local park offered. She attends craft and music groups organised by the local childminding group. The childminder does a walking collection from local schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association as well as the local childminding group. She is registered to care for a maximum of 6 children under the age of 8 and there are 8 children on roll at present who attend for a variety of sessions

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright, clean home. Children's health is well promoted through being offered regular drinks and healthy snacks, such as fruit. They enjoy regular walks to the local fruit shop to select for themselves. Any individual dietary requirements are well known and supported by the childminder, ensuring any special requirements are met.

Children are helped to develop good awareness of appropriate hygienic practices, for example regular hand washing in the daily routine 'to stop germs' and using tissues for runny noses. The childminder's policy of not taking children who are ill protects others from infections. Children are well supported if they become ill whilst parents are contacted.

Children are enthusiastically encouraged to enjoy the benefits of regular physical exercise. They all walk to and from school and other local facilities as well as having regular garden play. They use local parks for a good variety of physical activities, such as running and climbing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where risks have been fully assessed and addressed. This enables children to move around freely and make good use of space, for example, when playing between rooms. The required fire safety equipment is in place and children have good awareness of the fire safety procedure which supports their safety.

All children are aware of good road safety procedures for example, talking through the crossing procedure when walking to school. Older children learn to help younger children by holding hands, which involves them in promoting safety awareness.

Children enjoy the range of safe and attractive toys which support their play well. The age-appropriate toys are displayed safely, enabling children to choose and rotate resources. The good range of safety features used, such as stair gates and safety glass, help children play in a safe environment.

The childminder shows good awareness of the appropriate child protection procedures to be followed if any child protection issues arise, which helps support children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and are happily involved in a satisfactory range of play activities. Children choose from suitable age-appropriate toys that are rotated to maintain their interest. Whilst children are offered general creative play such as gluing and play-dough, they enjoy additional opportunities to develop their skills at local childminder groups. Resources such as dressing up clothes help children develop their imagination. Children enjoy access to books and sharing

them with the childminder though the range for school- age children is limited. Resources are organised so they are accessible. Children make choices from the display and this develops their independence.

Children respond warmly to the childminder's friendly involvement with their play. She uses open questions to effectively prompt their thinking which helps build children's concentration and develop their language skills. The childminder uses praise and encouragement consistently to support children's self-esteem and extend their enjoyment of play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs, such as dietary requirements are known and supported and their routines are respected. For example, visits to groups are built around the sleep routines of the younger children. This helps children feel valued and secure. All children are included in play opportunities and they are encouraged to respect each other, for example older children enjoy helping under fives with their play. A selection of positive images in toys and resources, such as puzzles and play people help children value diversity, though images in story books are limited.

Children behave well and learn to respect their environment as well as each other through the childminder's use of routines and clear boundaries. For example, children are encouraged to take responsibility for putting toys away before choosing others. Her positive policy for managing behaviour is shared with parents to build consistency for the children.

Information is shared verbally with parents on a daily basis to ensure they feel involved in their child's experience. Written policies are used to help parents and children become familiar with the childminder's practice which helps them feel secure.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play freely with the range of toys and resources that are well set out for them to access easily. This helps them move into play quickly and feel at ease. Use of the registered areas is well planned in order to meet the play and care needs of the children attending which ensures they feel valued.

The childminder uses records and policies effectively to promote the care and welfare of children with parents. The daily routine is well planned to offer play activities whilst ensuring children's individual needs and routines are respected.

Policies and procedures are discussed with parents on initial visits which helps establish clear relationships and ensures children's individual needs are well known. Time is made for daily feedback to ensure good consistency of care with parents.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder was asked to further develop behaviour management policies and ensure medical records were consistent. Clear and positive procedures have been established for both of these issues which has promoted children's safety and ensured consistency with parents.

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 positive images of diversity in resources, particularly books.

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