



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	103237
Inspection date	15 August 2005
Inspector	Sarah Jane Wignall

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 2001. She lives with her husband and two primary-school aged children, on an estate in a large town in Cornwall. Most rooms on the ground floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children, on different days throughout the week. The childminder walks to local schools and pre-schools to take and collect children. She attends the local parent and toddler group and takes children to the local park.

The childminder is a member of the Cornwall Childminding Association (CCMA). She is also a member of the Restormel Childminding Group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted by being cared for in a very clean and comfortable home environment. They learn the importance of good hygiene as they follow established daily routines, such as washing hands after handling animals and before eating. The childminder organises the garden well, so that children do not play on grass that is regularly used by guinea pigs, and could present a risk of infection. Babies are provided with individual cot sheets, and children use wet wipes or paper towels to prevent the risk of cross infection. Comprehensive documentation keeps parents well informed of accidents. The childminder holds an appropriate first aid qualification and has attended food hygiene training in the past.

Children benefit from a healthy range of snacks and meals, which include items such as fruit and yogurts. Sample menu's are prepared for parents information, and any special diets or allergies are discussed and recorded. Children are provided with regular drinks throughout the day, and babies individual feeding routines are followed.

Children are given regular opportunities for physical play and access to the outdoor environment. They enjoy regular attendance at a range of physical activity groups, such as soft play. They benefit from playing games such as football in the garden, where they also have access to other equipment such as a large and small slide.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a well organised environment that has been made safe and secure. Designated play areas ensure that children are safe and can be well supervised. The childminder protects children when using the outside play areas. She uses gates and locks to minimise risks to children and ensure their safety. Written emergency and fire evacuation procedures are in place, and help inform children about fire safety. Young children are effectively monitored when sleeping. The childminder uses a combination of regular visual checks and a listening device to monitor their sleeping patterns. Children are well supervised by the childminder. She provides appropriate support to children, when playing both indoors and out.

Children have access to a good range of toys and resources that are well organised and easily accessible to them. Most resources are stored in the designated play room, allowing children to select toys easily and safely. The childminder ensures that toys are not a danger to young children, and removes small items, such as small play animals, before young children attend. She ensures children are well secured in buggies or on reins when out in public areas.

Children are protected by the childminder's understanding of child protection issues. She has a written policy in place and is aware of action to take and agencies to contact if concerned about a child in her care. She has no formal system in place in which to record existing injuries.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children experience a varied and interesting range of activities that include regular attendance at a range of clubs and groups, where they have opportunities to socialise with others and widen their experiences. Children enjoy playing with each other, and co-operate well, for example when planning and making an obstacle course and building a tower of blocks. The childminder tries to extend children's knowledge and understanding, for instance as she helps them select the correct letters to make a jigsaw puzzle. The childminder has recently completed training in the Birth to three matters framework and is using this knowledge to support her care of the under 3's.

Children enjoy a close and comfortable relationship with the childminder and her own children, and they are clearly happy and settled in her care. She encourages children to share and take turns and they demonstrate this as they take turns in a ball game, and when playing in the garden. Children have regular opportunities to be creative and enjoy activities such as playing with dough, drawing and cooking.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well supported by the childminder who has a good understanding of their individual needs. She effectively oversees children's play while not being over directional. She has a written policy in place, which outlines her commitment to being inclusive. She ensures that daily routines meet the needs of all the children who attend. Children participate in a range of community groups such as soft play and toddlers, and they learn about the natural world as they take walks in the woods and spend time on the local beaches. They learn about diversity and the wider world through looking at books and occasional celebrations of festivals, such as Chinese new year.

Children behave very well. They benefit from the childminder's understanding and approach to managing behaviour. She has attended a training course to increase her knowledge and skills in this area. Children are aware of simple house rules such as sharing and not running indoors, and the childminder works with parents to reinforce these at home. Children are encouraged, and positive behaviour reinforced, through the use of verbal praise and encouragement, and the occasional use of target sheets, which helps to address behavioural issues.

Children are very well supported by the strong and professional links that the childminder has with parents. She provides them with comprehensive and well

organised documentation, and keeps them informed through the use of daily diaries and verbal feedback.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit from the childminder's strong commitment to developing and improving her practice. She is a member of the local childminder's group and, while not a registered member of the local college network, she regularly attends their meetings and events. She has attended several training workshops and tries to keep her knowledge and skills updated in this way. Children benefit from being cared for in an extremely well organised environment, which allows them to move freely between all designated indoor play areas. The childminder structures her week to ensure all children attend a range of community groups and have opportunities to play and socialise with others. She offers effective supervision and ensures children are well supported in their play.

Extremely well organised and comprehensive documentation is in place, and is used to keep parents informed about their child. Overall the childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to ensure checks on sleeping babies were made more frequently, to provide individual towels for children and to ensure that methods of addressing children's unacceptable behaviour did not cause humiliation.

Sleeping babies are cared for in a ground floor bedroom where they are closely monitored, both with regular visual checks and with the use of a listening monitor. Children are provided with both wet wipes and individual paper towels for hand washing. The childminder has attended a behaviour management course, and uses effective strategies such as simple house rules and verbal praise in order to reinforce positive behaviour.

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.
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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):

- ensure existing injuries are fully recorded.

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