



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	161712
Inspection date	06 June 2005
Inspector	Angela Ismond

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 for 15 years. She lives with her husband and three adult children in a four bedroom detached house in Cricklade. The house is within easy walking distance of schools, pre-schools and other amenities including a leisure centre, parks and regular bus service. The whole of the ground floor area of the property is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder currently cares for four children aged 17 months, 2 years old, 3 years old and a six year old. All the children attend in part time arrangements.

It is a non-smoking household and the family has a pet guinea pig.

The childminder attends the local toddlers and music group, and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and child friendly home where the children learn about hygiene through the daily routine. The children know the routine well and they know that they must wash their hands after using the toilet or potty. However, there are no clear explanations to the children as to why they must wash their hands. The childminder takes appropriate measures when children are unwell to reduce the risk of cross infection. The toys and equipment are kept routinely clean.

The children visit the park regularly and walk daily to and from school or pre school with the childminder. There are regular opportunities for the children to benefit from vigorous exercise as they climb and run in the park and at the leisure centre.

Children enjoy healthy meals and snacks to promote the children's good health. Food provided complies with special dietary requirements and these are provided in agreement with and in accordance with the parents wishes. There is scope to improve the mealtimes to ensure that the childminder sits with the children to make mealtimes more of a sociable event.

There is scope to improve the records in relation to the medication to ensure that parents are consistently requested to provide written instructions regarding medication to be administered. However, the childminder does record if she has administered any medication and the parents sign to acknowledge this.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where risks are identified and minimized such as fencing off the pond in the garden and a safety guard installed on the cooker. The childminder has a good awareness of safety by supervising the children in order to keep them safe.

The children learn to become aware of their own safety and that of others as the childminder talks to the children about tidying away the toys so that they don't hurt themselves if they trip over them and whilst out walking she talks to them about road safety, yet still enabling them to be independent. The childminder is careful to ensure that her first aid certificate is kept up-to-date so that she would be able to act in the children's best interest if there was an accident. The children are well supervised at all times to maximise their safety. Fire drills are practiced regularly but not recorded.

She has a suitable knowledge of locally approved child protection procedures and would know where to seek advice if she had concerns about the welfare of a child. The parents are informed verbally about the childminder's child protection procedures to keep the children safe.

The activities provided allow the children appropriate access to good quality toys which meet safety standards. The children assist in the care of the pet guinea pig, such as, feeding him on a regular basis. This enables the children to begin to learn about the care and respect of animals and develop their awareness of animals behaviour.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are well cared for by the childminder. They enjoy each other's company and they play well together. The children converse confidently with the childminder and she interacts very well with them. She plays on the children's level and asks them questions, using the toys, to help children learn and develop their concepts of colour, number and time.

Children enjoy exploring a good range of toys and equipment which contribute to their creativity, such as music sessions, dressing up and play-dough. The childminder extends the children's play and social experiences by attending local resources such as Pre-school and Music group. The childminder has a good knowledge of the children in her care and is able to observe their progress and adapt activities as they develop. All the children spend their time purposefully.

The childminder does not currently use the Birth to Three Matters framework, however, there are some elements of this in her practice, for example, she talks to the children and teaches them new words and phrases and gives the children further opportunities to socialise and develop friendships by taking them to a local Stay and Play sessions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has the ability to maintain an even approach to the children to ensure that they respect each others needs. Because of this the children are considerate and polite to each other, for example, by asking; do you mind if I use this piece of dough. They show concern and consideration as they play together harmoniously.

Their confidence and independence are well fostered as they help themselves to the toys available and ask the childminder for help when needed, for example, dressing up. The children have a strong sense of belonging and the confidence to self select from the good range of resources with maximum encouragement and support from the childminder.

The children are highly respected as individuals and they benefit from a warm and affectionate relationship with the childminder. The children's behaviour is managed positively and consistently with praise, encouragement and diversion. The children know how to share and to take turns and they respond well to the childminder's calm approach.

She works closely with the parents to make sure that the children's normal routines are followed and their individual needs are well met. The childminder includes children with special needs and is aware of the importance of working together with the parents to meet the children's all round needs.

Children are helped to develop a positive view of the wider world through general discussion and a suitable range of books, however there is scope to expand on this so that the children are provided with more activities and resources to further increase their awareness of diversity and their understanding of others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and confident in the suitably organised and child friendly home. The childminder makes appropriate use of the space she has to meet the children's needs well.

The children are able to choose activities and toys for themselves as the resources are stored on the children's level so they can easily reach. This allows the children to choose their own activities as well as develop their own play. The childminder is keen to use the birth to three matters framework in order for her to keep up to date with developments in childcare.

Parents are kept well informed about their children's day and the care provided and they are encouraged to share information about their children to help the childminder meet their individual needs. This contributes to the children's continuity of care. The childminder tends to verbally agree with parents medication to be administered rather than obtaining written instructions as required.

The childminder maintains child to adult ratios which ensures that the children are happy and supported in their play. However, she does not consistently complete the register of attendance on a daily basis. The childminder identifies that record keeping is not her strongest point, however she is receptive to improving this to make her documentation contain regulation requirements. 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 asked to increase her knowledge of child protection procedures and keep details of social services contact numbers. She has increased her knowledge and would now be more aware of who to contact in the event of a child protection concern. She now has the required information and

telephone numbers to act in the children's best interest, if the need arose.

The childminder was also asked to ensure that her register of attendance is completed and kept up-to-date to promote the welfare and safety of the children. She records the children's attendance, however, she tends to do this on a weekly basis rather than daily. Her emergency escape plan is in place and she keeps records of the parents contact details and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.

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):

- ensure that written parental consent is obtained prior to administering medication to promote the welfare and safety of the children and ensure that the register of attendance is kept up-to-date as required
- provide more activities and resources to further increase the children's awareness of diversity and their understanding of others

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