



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 223490 |
| Inspection date | 18 October 2005 |
| Inspector | Susan Irene Tyler |

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| 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 1995. She lives with her 15 year old child and 2 adult children in the town of Ross on Wye in South Herefordshire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of 4 children at any one time and is currently minding children during the day and after school. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She also visits a local toddler group. The family has a cat, hamster, gerbils, rabbits and budgies.

The childminder is a member of an approved childminding network and is an active member of the local childminding support group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from being cared for in a clean, organised and homely environment where good health is promoted through careful hygiene arrangements. The childminder maintains good levels of hygiene in all areas of the home and when preparing food. Toys and equipment are also regularly cleaned. The childminder takes positive steps to develop children's understanding and awareness of good health and hygiene as she provides encouragement and varying levels of support depending on the age of the child. Clear procedures are in place to ensure that sick children are well cared for and high regard is given to protecting children from infection. The childminder is vigilant in recording any accidents or the administering of medicines. Parental consent for seeking emergency medical advice and treatment is maintained.

Children enjoy food that is nutritious and varied. Parents provide lunches for their children and the childminder provides snacks mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Snack and mealtimes are relaxed and sociable occasions. Children's physical development is encouraged and promoted through daily visits to the park or toddler groups where children play on a good variety of equipment and have space to run. This helps them to develop their large and small muscles and to keep healthy through being active.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are provided with toys and equipment that are safe and appropriate for their individual stages of development. Toys and equipment are regularly checked and meet safety standards. Children are very well supervised at all times during the day.

Children are safe as a result of the childminder's very good awareness of health and safety and all reasonable steps are taken to reduce risks for example, all cleaning materials are locked away and there is a fitted stairgate. A high priority is given to the condition and safety of equipment and the security of the premises. Children learn to keep themselves safe whilst on outings. They are encouraged to follow the highway code and young children wear safety reins.

Children are very well protected because the childminder has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities whilst protecting children in her care. She has a good working knowledge of child protection procedures and has recently attended a child protection training course.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in a very welcoming and child friendly environment. Children have good access to toys and equipment, enabling them to make independent decisions about their own play and learning. Resources are regularly rotated to ensure children are kept stimulated and choices relate to children's individual preferences. They are involved in a good range of activities, which support all areas of development for example, children take daily walks to the park, the duck pond or visit toddler groups where they may play on large apparatus and have space to run. They also enjoy lots of creative activities using a good variety of materials and tools. Children are supported well in their play by the childminder who makes time for conversations and helps them in any specific area of interest such as building towers.

Children are developing independence as they access resources for themselves and are encouraged in self-care for example, hanging up coats, taking themselves to the toilet and putting on shoes. They behave well in response to warm encouragement and praise as they share toys and help to tidy away the toys.

All children appear to enjoy their play. They are confident to make requests to the childminder for drinks, snacks and toys. They are free to decide what to play with and when and are given time to play at their chosen activities. The childminder ensures their play and learning is extended dependant on children's individual stages of development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. They are encouraged to make choices about their own play and have good accessibility to toys and equipment. Children begin to learn about diversity for example, as they play with toys and equipment which reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability.

Children benefit from a childminder who provides sensitive support and guidance for all children. She takes account of children's individual needs and treats them with equal concern for example, she enables younger children to take part in drawing activities by providing chunky crayons. Children's behaviour is very good and good behaviour is encouraged by using star charts and praise.

Children's individual needs are supported very well by the childminder who works in close partnership with parents to ensure consistency of care and to make sure parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress and development. This good partnership enables children to separate happily from their parents and to settle quickly.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and homely environment. They are able to move safely around the home and garden. Space and resources are well organised and children benefit from this as they move freely between toys and activities. The childminder keeps up to date with new ideas and information by regularly attending short courses. She takes positive steps to ensure that persons who have contact with the children are suitable to do so.

All required documentation is in place and up to date, although the registration certificate was not displayed. Records are easily accessible but kept confidentially. All relevant documentation is shared with parents and confidentiality is respected at all times. Overall the provider meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was requested to further increase resources promoting positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. Since the last inspection the childminder has purchased additional resources and borrows a variety of resources from a local toy lending library. Children now have increased accessibility to resources enabling them to learn about diversity.

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):

- display the registration certificate

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:

