



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223396
Inspection date	03 June 2005
Inspector	Janette Elizabeth Owen

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 satisfactory. 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 1992. She lives with her husband and one adult child on the outskirts of the city of Hereford. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children aged between five and nine years. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. The family has one guinea pig and a rabbit as pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to develop their physical skills and benefit from physical exercise during organised outings and outside play. They are encouraged to walk to school as long as the weather is suitable.

Children are provided with regular meals, snacks and drinks, they are encouraged to try new foods and are beginning to learn about healthy eating. The childminder keeps parents informed of meals provided and ensures any specific dietary requirements are recorded.

Accident and medication records are maintained and parents informed of the process for completing records, ensuring that procedures are followed. However, procedures for caring for children who are ill need to be reviewed to ensure that positive steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection between children. Children are actively encouraged to take responsibility for their own personal hygiene and to wash hands regularly and to get themselves ready for school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home which is safe, well maintained and provides children with sufficient space to play, rest and eat. The childminder has a good understanding of safety issues and has suitable arrangements in place to ensure the safety of the children. School age children are allowed more independence and encouraged to be safety conscious and follow house rules.

Activities and resources are age appropriate and reflect the interests of the children. Children are able to make independent selection from the good range of quality toys available.

The childminder follows required procedures and maintains all documentation to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a clear understanding of child protection and follows the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Activities and resources are provided which reflect the interests of the children, they are able to make choices in the activities they participate in and allowed time after school to relax or be active as they wish. Children are happy and settled having been in the childminder's care since babies. They relate well to each other and to members of the family. Children are able to experience a range of activities and experiences

when they are taken on outings and excursions during holiday times. They enjoy visits to farm parks, woodlands and local amenities where they can have fun during their holidays. Children are developing their independence and confidence as they play together and help the childminder with routine tasks such as setting the table for meal times.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder uses her good knowledge of the children in her care to ensure their individual needs are met. Children's routines and individual needs are discussed and agreed with parents. The childminder would seek additional advice and support in order to meet the requirements of a child with special needs. The children receive clear messages about behaviour and are well behaved and polite. They are comfortable in the care of the childminder, looking to her when they want comfort and support. She acknowledges their achievements with praise and encouragement.

Children are introduced to other cultures, beliefs and abilities through the resources provided, the childminder has improved children's access to multicultural and disability resources by including more books and dressing up materials.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a well organised environment where children can participate in a range of activities. She is experienced and has developed a good relationship with parents who have used her for many years. She is flexible in meeting the needs of working parents, providing out of school care for children. There are satisfactory arrangements for sharing information with parents on children's daily activities and information passed on from school. Documents relating to the care and welfare of the children are maintained and stored securely.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection, the childminder has improved children's health and safety. She has improved her procedures for recording children's attendance to give clear information on children arrival and departure times. Children are encouraged to follow good personal hygiene routines and minimise the risk of infection by regular hand washing. Medication procedures have been improved and written parental consent for medication to be administered to children ensures that children receive the correct dose at the prescribed time. Children's understanding of the wider world has been promoted through new books and resources reflecting positive images of other culture, beliefs and abilities.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- review arrangements for caring for children who are ill and the steps taken to prevent the spread of infection.

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