



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	136368
Inspection date	17 February 2006
Inspector	Nigel Lindsay Smith

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 husband, an adult child and a child aged 11 in Clifton, Bristol. All areas of the property are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed patio for outside play.

The childminder is registered for 6 children. The childminder is currently minding 6 children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder takes children to the library, local parks and the zoo.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children gain self-care skills to promote good hygiene, for example, through always cleaning their hands before eating. The childminder has thorough procedures to ensure that parents give written consent and guidance for any medication, and to inform parents after administering it, with their signature. Children are protected in the event of an accident as the childminder has a current first aid certificate. Appropriate arrangements are in place to record any accidents and notify the parent, and the childminder obtains permission from the parents for emergency medical treatment.

Children enjoy healthy and varied meals, snacks and drinks prepared and provided by the childminder. They have a daily freshly cooked meal. They learn about healthy eating; a child says: "We get strong if we eat fruit". Their drinks are regularly replenished so that they do not become dehydrated.

Children enjoy moving freely in a clean and well-organised environment. They take part in outdoor activities such as walking and using playground equipment, which helps them successfully develop control of their bodies. Children have regular opportunities to develop and extend their physical skills throughout the year by going to local parks. They are able to rest according to their needs. The childminder uses her knowledge of child development to extend children's physical skills, for example, by creating an area for crawling children to explore safely and practise pulling themselves up to hold onto a convenient surface.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and secure in a playroom which is welcoming and comfortable, with large windows to provide natural light. Children enjoy a great amount of freedom to move around and explore as a result of the childminder's thorough awareness of safety issues and effective procedures to reduce risk.

Children can evacuate the premises safely in the event of a fire as the childminder has developed an appropriate procedure. Thorough precautions, such as restraints for children in buggies when on outings, ensure that children are protected from hazards. Children can safely access and use the play equipment as it is placed at appropriate levels. All equipment is purchased new and the childminder checks that it has a safety kite-mark before obtaining it.

Children are well protected by the childminder's good knowledge and understanding of the local child protection procedures, and her arrangements to ensure that they are always closely supervised if there are any adults present who have not undertaken vetting procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are settled and make good progress because the childminder provides them with a variety of stimulating activities. Children enjoy exploring and discovering for themselves, for example, a younger child listens to a variety of sounds coming from "Peek a Boo" blocks, while an older child constructs with "Popoids". They benefit from the childminder's input in other activities, such as learning how throw and catch.

Children enjoy a broad range of activities so that they extend their learning, including opportunities for counting, role play and learning colours. Babies are well stimulated by being enabled to access items that interest them. They explore a range of objects so that they experience a variety of different textures. Children enjoy daily outings to a variety of places, including the zoo, so that they increase their knowledge of the surrounding area.

Children are strongly encouraged to make choices about their play, from readily accessible equipment. They enjoy warm, close relationships with the childminder, which makes them happy, secure and confident. For example, a young child is delighted when the childminder helps them use a rocker, singing to them at the same time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from clear boundaries and explanations, so that they learn to behave well. They are nurtured by encouragement and praise from the childminder, who shows enjoyment in being with them. The childminder's positive methods of promoting good behaviour are supported by effective methods of dealing with more challenging behaviour, such as finding ways of distracting the child.

Children do not have access to resources which reflect differing cultures, so lack opportunities to learn about the wider multicultural community. The childminder does not have experience of caring for children with special needs, but has a good understanding of how to adapt activities to include a child appropriately.

Children are helped to settle through the childminder's commitment to building good relationships with their parents. For example, the childminder invites the parents to make an initial visit so that she can provide them with information about her practice. They learn about how their child's day has been when they collect them.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a consistent environment, where they feel safe, are helped to practise learned skills and are not afraid to try new activities. The childminder arranges the premises to provide children with appropriate space in a welcoming

room. The childminder provides a varied range of activities for the children within the home and in the local community.

All required documentation is shared in confidence with the parents and stored securely for the required time.

Adults in the household have been vetted and the children are never left unsupervised with any adults who have not undergone checks.

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 ensure that all persons over the age of 16 years living in the household are vetted. This has been achieved. She was also asked to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote positive images of disability. This has not been achieved and is covered in the recommendation made at the current inspection. She was further asked to maintain a record of children's progress, achievements and special events. The childminder says that she offered diaries to the parents but they were content to have verbal feedback when collecting their children. She demonstrates a good understanding of the children's developmental needs.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

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 equipment and activities are provided which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children

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