



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	223368
Inspection date	15 February 2006
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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2000. She lives with her husband, adult daughter and two children aged five years and eight years on the outskirts of the market town of Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire. The whole of the ground floor, with exception of the study, is used for childminding with the bathroom on the first floor. There is a large secure rear garden which includes a large fish pond which is fenced off from the play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight

years at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight after school and during holidays. The childminder also provides care for children over eight years old. The family has a dog.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's good health is not adequately promoted because the childminder does not take positive steps to promote the good health of children and ensure effective measures are taken prevent the spread of infection. Procedures in relation to hygiene and pet management are not effectively implemented to ensure children are not at risk from cross infections.

Children are adequately nourished. Parents provide packed lunches for the children which contain a sufficient amount to meet children's needs. Children are not learning about the importance of a healthy diet because the childminder does not actively encourage children to develop a good understanding of what foods are good for them for example, they prefer to select snacks of biscuits rather than nourishing options of fresh fruit.

Children have limited access to outside physical play because the garden is not safe and opportunities to go on outings to use local parks are limited because of transport difficulties. At times there are too many children to transport by vehicle, therefore the number of children minded has an impact on the range of activities provided for all children.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Whilst the space is adequate for the needs of the children who attend, it is poorly organised and this means that children do not have sufficient safe play space where they can move around freely. Children's safety is not given priority; positive steps are not taken to promote children's safety on the premises, both indoors, outside and on outings. Risk assessments are not effectively used indoors and outside, to identify and minimise any hazards to children. Methods of encouraging children to understand the importance of correct behaviour and safety when in a vehicle are not effectively used, resulting in times when the childminder does not have safe control over the children when transporting them in the vehicle.

Children are able to make independent choices from a wide range of toys and resources which are age appropriate. This is because the childminder provides children with a range of toys and equipment which are of suitable design and condition and are appropriate for their developmental needs. Parents are able to make an informed decision about activities their children are involved in, such as

using the trampoline, because the childminder obtains written parental consent beforehand.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder has a clear understanding of her role in child protection and follows appropriate guidelines and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are provided with a wide range of resources and activities which keep them entertained and occupied, the resources reflect the interests of the children and their stage of development. They are able to choose how they spend their time either being actively involved in favourite activities or relaxing while watching television. They are developing in independence because they are given time to play independently and initiate their own activities, they are able to adapt activities in order to meet their own needs. Children are learning the skills of negotiation as they begin to learn the rules of play; they follow the lead of older children who in turn help the younger children. The interaction between the children is good.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are developing sound relationships with the childminder and other children, they are supportive of each other and interact well together and this contributes to the children's developing self-esteem and respect. Children are happy and settled because the childminder knows the children well and involves them in making choices and decisions about what they will do. Children are generally well behaved, sharing and helping each other with games, they are well occupied and happy with activities provided. Children are learning about the wider world because the childminder has improved the range of resources which reflect positive images and diversity, she also uses the toy library to supplement the range offered.

The childminder has a friendly relationship with parents; she is very flexible in meeting their needs. The childminder knows the children well, she obtains information on their specific requirements from parents to ensure is able to meet their individual needs.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children's needs are not effectively met because of the poor organisation of the environment and number of children attending. The care of children over eight years old adversely affects the care provided for children under eight because there are limitations on the opportunities provided for younger children and the limited space available at times when the childminder is very busy. Policies and written procedures have been developed and training undertaken but work practices do not reflect the

written information provided or demonstrate an improvement in the quality of care provided for the children. Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the previous inspection the childminder has made satisfactory progress in addressing the issues raised. Children's welfare has been improved because she has obtained written consent from parents for emergency treatment to be administered in event of an accident. She has developed her understanding of child development and how to use play opportunities to aid children's development by attending 'Birth to three matters' training. Children are gaining a better understanding of the world around them because they have access to a wider range of resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 2004. 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- take positive steps to promote children's safety on the premises, both indoors, outside and on outings
- take positive steps to promote the good health of children and ensure effective measures are taken prevent the spread of infection
- ensure that space and resources meet children's needs effectively and that the care of children over eight does not adversely affect the care provided for children under eight.

These actions are set out in a ***notice of action to improve*** and must be completed

by the date specified in the notice.

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