



Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 136466 |
| Inspection date | 09 May 2006 |
| Inspector | Sue Hill |
| 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 1996. She lives with her 2 adult children, and 1 child aged 14 years in Yate, South Gloucestershire. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time, and is currently minding one child over five before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder also cares for children over eight years of age. She takes children on outings.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home, where their health is actively promoted through well established daily hygiene routines and effective practice. The childminder appropriately manages accidents and the administration of medication, and shares the records with parents. The risk of infection is minimised through the exclusion of children who are sick. Children are able to enjoy a range of physical activities through using the childminder's well equipped garden. There are regular visits to the park and playgrounds to further develop their physical skills.

Children are developing an understanding of healthy eating through encouragement from the childminder. Parents' wishes and children's preferences are taken into account, so that the nutritious meals and snacks appeal to children and meet their dietary needs. For example, she cares for a child with diabetes, and ensures that he has regular snacks or meals as appropriate. She is careful to make sure that any treats given to the children are diabetic, so that he is not made to feel different. Children are developing an understanding of healthy eating through planned activities such as making sandwiches or making their own pizzas. Drinks are readily available, fruit is offered as a snack and children enjoy a healthy home cooked meal. Meal times are social occasions, as all children sit together at the table and talk to each other and the childminder.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a warm and welcoming environment where children are relaxed and safe. The ground floor is organised to meet children's needs, with comfortable seating, and space for art and craft or imaginative play. Many of the clean and safe resources are kept in this area in cupboards, tubs and on low-level shelving and children are able to help themselves. There is a strong child focus in the home which has been set up to encourage children to explore the resources, relax and enjoy being together. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure they are appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are able to access a good, safe range of outdoor equipment; for example, swings, slides and a climbing frame at the park, or ball games in the childminder's garden.

The childminder is aware of potential hazards outside the home and puts appropriate measures in place so that children are safe. Children learn to protect themselves as they are taught road safety and not to talk to strangers. As the childminder has addressed potential hazards in the home, children's freedom is maximised. Children are protected by clear and well-detailed accident and medication records and the childminder has all the required documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures. Appropriate fire safety measures, such as smoke alarms, a fire blanket, and evacuation procedures are in place. Children are aware of these procedures; however, they have not been practised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Minded children have fun, are confident and enjoy the activities available to them. They are well settled in the childminder's house as she is friendly and welcoming. She promotes language development well through her constant interaction and conversation with the children. They express themselves well, as the childminder skilfully engages them in conversation by asking open ended questions. This encourages their language development and social skills.

Children develop independently as they choose their own activities from a good range of resources. They are happily and actively occupied. Children are appropriately challenged so that learning is extended as the childminder provides toys which are all suitable for the age and stage of children's development. They take part in a range of fun and interesting outings and activities as they relax after school and during the holidays: for example, doing art and crafts or visiting the sea-side. Children relate well to each other as they explore and join in games. The childminder is aware of using the Birth to three matters framework to promote younger children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a good range of activities and resources to promote a positive view of the wider world, enabling children to learn positively about differences. The children learn about the diverse society in which we live through discussion and resources reflecting positive images of difference being included in everyday play. Awareness of their own environment is developed through use of the garden, and local visits; for example, to the park and soft play. They walk to the local school and amenities, so that children become very familiar with their surroundings.

Children show care and concern for each other and play together harmoniously. They behave very well, encouraged by the childminder's use of positive praise. They make themselves at home, becoming confident about making choices and asking for what they want to play with from a young age. Children are secure as their individual needs are met well. The childminder follows their normal daily routine as discussed with their parents. Positive, friendly relationships with parents promote an informal exchange of information about children's development. Parents are welcomed into the home and at the end of the day there is a two-way discussion so that both parties are fully aware of what is happening in a child's life.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. The children are at home and at ease in the well organised environment, which means they are confident and feel safe. Activities and toys are well presented encouraging children to explore and initiate play. The childminder attends relevant training courses regularly, using the knowledge gained to support the children's learning.

Children's well-being is promoted through up to date documentation being confidentially maintained and where appropriate shared with parents; however, her first aid certificate is now out of date. The childminder's policies and procedures are discussed with parents, and she works closely with them so children experience continuity of care. She is aware of the amendments to the standards made in October 2005, however, these have not yet been fully implemented.

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder has met the four recommendations made at the last inspection. Children are now protected by the childminder's evacuation plan, and discussion on actions to take; however, this has not yet been practised with the children. They are further protected as the childminder has replaced low level glass with kite marked safety glass. She is demonstrating that she is following parents wishes by having all documentation signed by them, and records times that minded children are in her care.

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 the 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 changes detailed in the amendment to the standards dated October 2005 are implemented, with particular reference to complaints
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk