



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	145513
Inspection date	14 July 2006
Inspector	Michelle Tuck
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 has been registered since 2000. She lives with her partner in the village of Chapmanslade, near Westbury in Wiltshire. Their home is a semi detached bungalow in a rural location. All of the home can be used for childminding. There is an enclosed rear garden available for outside play. She is registered to care for six children under eight years of age, of which three may be under five, including one under one. There are currently four children on roll.

The childminder has a dog, a rabbit and two budgerigars. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is generally promoted appropriately. For example, children have their dietary requirements met by the childminder. In addition, the childminder promotes healthy eating by providing a good choice of homemade dishes which are nutritious. Children benefit from easy access to their cups of drink at all times.

Children have daily experiences to develop their physical skills. They play outside in the garden, visit local parks, toddler groups and take the dog for a walk.

Children learn about hygiene through appropriate hand washing routines. For example, they are encouraged to wash their hands using liquid pump soap and a towel, which is changed on a daily basis, before food, after the toilet and after touching the pets. Children also help sort the washing, learning about keeping clothes and blankets clean to further promote their understanding of keeping healthy.

Children benefit from the childminder's appropriate knowledge of first aid through training. Injuries have been appropriately treated and shared with parents. However the parents have not given written permission for the childminder to seek emergency medical advice or treatment for their child if necessary.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have safe access to a selection of age appropriate toys and resources, which are safe and suitable. Children play in a comfortable home, in which they move around confidently. They have sufficient space to explore and play with a range of bright and colourful toys. Some toys are set out ready for children to use, but many, including puzzles and some imaginative play resources, are stored in a cupboard in the playroom, which are easy to access and supports them well in making independent and clear choices in their play.

Children begin to develop an awareness of their own safety. For example, on outings they know to hold onto the pushchair when they walk along the road, as the childminder discusses road safety with the children. They understand it may be dangerous to run about indoors. Overall, safety prevention in place satisfactorily protects children. However, the fire blanket has not been wall mounted, and a socket cover is missing from an electrical socket in the playroom. An appropriate emergency evacuation procedure is in place, however, this is not discussed or practised with the children.

Children's welfare is sufficiently safeguarded as the childminder has sufficient knowledge of child protection issues.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's good knowledge and experience of childcare. Children have their individual needs understood and met effectively through a range of age appropriate, activities. For example, they plant and grow vegetables in the garden, pick them when they are ready, and eat them. At the childminder's home they participate in a range of craft and messy play with water and paint to develop their skills in all areas of learning. Children benefit from the childminder's interaction with them. She explains things to them and asks questions to make them think. For example "What do you think will happen if you try to take your shorts off when standing in the water?" Children answer correctly "They will get wet."

Children benefit from clear routines and their likes and dislikes are well known by the childminder. She responds to changes in children's behaviour with flexibility to ensure her care of them meets their individual needs. For example, on waking, children are supported with additional cuddles and comfort until confident to explore.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled at the childminder's. Their individual needs are understood and met appropriately by the childminder to make them feel secure. There are clear boundaries which help children understand how to behave and the childminder provides children with a variety of opportunities which helps to develop their social skills, for example, toddler group and meetings with other childminder's and their children. Children are praised and encouraged for their achievements, resulting in children having a good self-esteem.

Children have equal opportunities within the caring environment, for example, boys and girls have equal access to all toys and activities. However, they have limited access to resources which reflect positive images of diversity. Although there are currently no children attending who have learning disabilities, the childminder has experience in caring for children with specific needs and is aware of how to seek help and advice to support these children appropriately.

Children benefit from an informal partnership between their parents and the childminder. They share information on a daily basis to ensure the needs of the child are met effectively.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides. She balances the needs of the pre-school children alongside the needs of older children. For example, all activities are on offer to both ages but older children do not have to participate after school. If the children wish to relax after school time is allowed for them to do so.

Children benefit from the childminder's organisation of documentation. Children's records are up to date and stored in a file for easy access although permission to seek emergency medical

advice or treatment has not been sought. Children's daily attendance is accurately recorded to show that the childminder maintains her ratios. She also holds a valid first aid certificate.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The childminder has bought a few resources to reflect different cultures. She also agreed to ensure the record of attendance is accurately maintained. Attendance is now recorded on sheets of paper and kept close at hand. The childminder was asked to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment. This has not yet been addressed.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints 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 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):

- ensure the fire blanket is wall mounted in an appropriate place in the kitchen.
- ensure written permission from parents is sought to seek emergency medical advice or treatment.
- ensure all electrical sockets are inaccessible to 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