

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	953844
Inspection date	05 March 2007
Inspector	Sue Vernon
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 1998. She occasionally works with an assistant. She lives with her husband and three children aged two, four and 15 years in Chippenham, Wiltshire. The whole ground floor of the house is used for childminding except for the study and workroom. There is a first floor bedroom for sleeping children. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight. At the present time there are seven children on roll who attend on a part-time basis. The family have two cats.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She has a level 3 qualification in Childminding Practice.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and wellbeing is satisfactorily supported. The childminder discusses infectious diseases with parents, gives leaflets about incubation periods and explains why she cannot accept sick children. This helps protect children from possible cross-infections. Children learn consistent routines for regular hand washing using their own towels which promotes good hygiene. The childminder is aware of effective hygiene practices such as wearing protective gloves when changing nappies.

The childminder works with parents to get to know any special dietary needs and she plans how to support them effectively. This helps parents feel valued. She encourages children to try new foods and engages their interest by helping them enjoy making their own pizzas using fresh ingredients.

Accidents are recorded and the details shared with parents which supports continuity for the children. Medication issues are recorded although details for permissions and administration are not consistently clear.

Children enjoy physical play using climbing equipment or setting up a simple obstacle course in the garden when the weather allows. Younger children have additional opportunities for riding wheeled toys when they visit toddler groups.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in an environment where risks have been identified and generally addressed. For example, appropriate safety features such as fire guards and safety gates are in place. This helps children move safely around the environment, for example when visiting the downstairs bathroom. Fire safety issues have been addressed and children are aware of the evacuation plan which is discussed and practiced. This promotes a safe environment. Children learn to be aware of their own safety for example, when the childminder discusses car safety and the need for booster seats. Younger children know to help shut stair gates in order to protect toddlers.

An appropriate range of safe toys and resources are offered to children including books, puzzles and small world play. Older children access the computer or choose for themselves from a range of games and activities in accessible storage cupboards. This promotes their independence. All children enjoy selecting from craft resources which are stored to hand. Availability of resources ensures children can move between play activities smoothly.

The childminder is aware of the signs of different areas of child abuse which serves to support children's wellbeing, however she is not as secure on the required procedure to be followed if concerns arise. Parents are made aware of her responsibilities in written information.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are offered a range of suitable play activities with toys set out ready for them in the living room which helps them separate smoothly from their parents or carers. For example,

younger children enjoy small world play with space craft and figures or construction bricks. After school children access the computer, television or choose games and puzzles. Garden play offers opportunities to climb and swing on a garden unit. Children enjoy an interesting variety of craft work including painting and collage work with maize pieces. The childminder

offers weekly outings to local facilities such as toddler groups which builds children's social skills. Children enjoy the planned outings that the childminder offers in the school holidays. For example, they visit a butterfly farm where they enjoy the butterflies and the soft play area and model making.

The childminder builds relaxed relationships with the children who play happily in her care. They seek her help and support with toys if a problem arises whilst playing by themselves, such as fixing doors back on the space craft. She plans some activities ahead such as preparing craft resources to hand for a child to make a family card and gives praise to his efforts as she helps him. School-age children appreciate the time she spends supporting them with school work.

Children enjoy remembering outings and have fun looking at photographs with the childminder which helps them feel included and valued.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works with parents in order to get to know each child and their individual needs. For example, she supports any medical needs such as asthma which helps children feel secure. All children are included in play opportunities, with both boys and girls enjoying cooking pizzas or construction play. A selection of resources, for example books on specific needs such as dyslexia help children learn about differences.

The childminder has a positive policy on managing behaviour which is shared with parents when children start. This explains that she uses distraction and praise to support good behaviour. The childminder praises children's efforts which builds their self-confidence. For example, a child receives praise for making a collage picture card for a parent's birthday. Children's art work is displayed which builds their self-esteem.

Effective relationships are built with parents through settling-in visits which enables the childminder to get to know parent's requirements and each child's needs. Some written policies are in place and are shared with parents. This helps them understand the childminder's procedures though full details such as those around the complaints procedure are not fully in place. Consistency of care is supported by the verbal feedback given daily to parents. Written information on their child's day is also offered to parents in daily books which helps them feel involved.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The use of the rooms is organised satisfactorily in order to meet the play and care needs of the children attending. For example, older school aged children can make their own selection of toys from cupboards. Areas for floor play and craft play are offered with resources to hand. Toys are available when children arrive which helps them settle to play quickly.

The childminder meets the ratios and keeps a daily register and has a current first aid certificate as required. Written information for parents about the role of the assistant is in place although specific details of possible times when used are not included. The certificate of registration is not displayed. Other records such as those recording accidents are shared appropriately with parents though some procedures such as those regarding medication lack full detail. The childminder attends workshops in order to develop her skills further. 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 devise and practise an emergency evacuation plan. She has now prepared a plan for evacuation and discusses and practices this with children which promotes children's safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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 procedures and records such as the complaints procedure and medication record are shared with parents
- ensure the registration certificate is displayed
- refresh awareness of the child protection procedure.

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