



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | EY299842            |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 15 September 2005   |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Shirley Ann Jackson |
| <b>Type of inspection</b>      | Childcare           |
| <b>Type of care</b>            | 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](http://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 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 7 years and 10 months. The family live close to the centre of Gloucester. All areas of her home are used for childminding, at the childminder's discretion. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. Her home is close to the city library and park, school and playgroup.

The childminder has a recognised early years qualification to level 3. She is a member of the National Childminding Association (NCMA). The childminder currently cares for 4 children aged 6 to 9 years. She minds them for 1 hour before school from Monday to Friday.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is supported as the childminder has clear procedures in place for dealing with accidents and administering medication. However, written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has not been requested. This compromises children's health in emergencies. Children develop a good understanding of hygiene through established routines, such as washing their hands before eating and after playing outside. Children are able to rest and sleep according to their own routine.

The childminder takes account of the wishes of parents and children's choices to provide nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet as they are offered regular drinks throughout the day.

Children have regular opportunities to go outside to enjoy physical activities and fresh air. They enjoy a satisfactory range of activities which contribute to their good health. Their physical skills are improved by occasional visits to local parks and using the equipment available there.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move freely and safely within the childminder's home as most possible risks have been identified and minimised. However, premises are not secure when children are present. This compromises their safety when in the childminder's home, as unauthorised entry isn't prevented and children are able to leave unsupervised.

Older children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe. For example, when crossing the road on the way to school, the childminder gives clear direction about looking and listening all the time. Children's safety is promoted when outdoors and on outings through the childminder's use of good safety procedures.

Children choose some activities from a range of good quality resources which meet safety standards. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of resources to make sure that they are appropriate for their stage of development. The childminder has all the required procedures in place to ensure she promotes and safeguards children's welfare. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle and are comfortable in the childminder's home. They enter confidently and make themselves at home. They have positive relationships with the childminder and the other children attending.

Children are offered a suitable range of activities which contribute to their imaginative and creative development, such as role play and cooking. Their independence skills are developed as the childminder encourages them to do things for themselves, for example, putting on their jackets when walking to school. Children are also confident to ask for help when needed. However, opportunities for younger children to explore and investigate using their senses are limited.

Children enjoy a satisfactory range of activities which contributes to their imagination, such as, playing with the game boy. The childminder uses praise and encouragement when children attempt to complete a task, which raises their self-esteem.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's care needs are well met as their normal home routine is followed, as discussed with their parents. All children have equal access to toys and resources and their choices are respected, building their self-esteem.

The childminder has limited resources which reflect positive images of the wider community. This only begins to raise children's awareness of diversity. Children learn about the local community as they visit nearby shops and parks.

Children begin to learn about positive behaviour as the childminder gives clear explanations when behaviour is unacceptable. Children begin to play independently as the childminder gives them some opportunities to choose what they want to do, such as watching television or playing with the game boy.

Children benefit from the positive working partnership between the childminder and parents. Parents views about their child's needs and interests are sought before care starts, ensuring continuity of care. Daily chats about the children take place at the end of each day giving children a sense of belonging and well-being and keeping parents involved and informed.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder hasn't yet completed the introduction to childminding course. She is booked on a course due to begin shortly. She has many years of experience of caring for children and holds a recognised early years qualification to level 3. Children feel comfortable and at ease in the childminder's home. Children are confident in their surroundings to initiate some of their own play.

Procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare and care of the children. These are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. This contributes to continuity of the child's care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable. This is the childminder's first inspection.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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 that premises are secure to prevent unauthorised entry to ensure that children cannot leave unsupervised
- obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- provide experiences for younger children that involve using all of the senses

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)