



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	101050
Inspection date	13 December 2006
Inspector	Ruth Tharme
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 has been registered since 1999 and may provide care for six children under eight years at any one time. She currently cares for seven children aged between five and 12 years. She offers before-and-after school care during school terms, and full-time care during school holidays.

The childminder lives with her partner and her daughter aged 14 years. Their four-bedroom, detached house is located in the residential area of Abbeymead, on the outskirts of Gloucester. The whole of the house is available for the childminding with the main care taking place on the ground floor. Children have access to an enclosed rear garden with grassed and patio areas.

The childminder has completed the Introduction to Childminding Practice, first aid and child protection courses. There are local play parks, primary schools, shops and a library nearby. Children are taken on outings in the local area. The childminder provides a drop-off and collection service from Upton St Leonard's Primary School.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of the documentation required to ensure that an accurate record is maintained of all medication administered to children and of all accidents which may occur. Hand-washing procedures are well established to minimise the risk of infection but the sharing of towels means that there is still some risk to children. The house is clean and well maintained, providing a hygienic environment for the children. Regular use of the garden and visits to a local park mean that children experience fresh air and exercise.

The childminder holds a current first-aid qualification and has a well-stocked first aid box so she is able to offer appropriate treatment in an emergency. Medication is stored safely where children cannot reach it. There is an exclusion policy in place so those with infectious diseases do not spread illness to others. Those who fall ill whilst in the childminder's care are treated appropriately. They are cared for sensitively and parents are asked to collect them as soon as possible.

The childminder takes care to discuss specific needs with parents before care commences, to ensure that particular dietary needs are met. Children are generally provided with healthy meals as the childminder prepares fresh foods for them, such as pasta or casseroles, on a daily basis.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is neatly decorated and well kept, so children benefit from a clean and welcoming environment. The use of space is well considered to meet children's needs effectively. There is a quiet area for children to rest, read or complete homework and ample open space for children to play freely.

The childminder takes care to provide resources which are safe and suitable for the children to use. She buys good quality equipment and checks toys regularly to ensure that they are in good condition. Children are able to access their toys readily as they are stored where children can see and reach them easily.

Positive steps have been taken to reduce the risks to children. Socket covers and drawer locks are fitted. The garden is safely enclosed so children cannot leave unsupervised. Outings are well planned to ensure children's safety. A mobile telephone and first-aid equipment are taken on all trips. Suitable car seats are used and parents are asked for written consent before any child is taken out.

The childminder has a clear knowledge of child protection issues. She is able to recognise a child who may be at risk and knows what to do to protect them. She has up-to-date information readily available and has completed relevant training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a relaxed and informal atmosphere, so children feel comfortable and happy in her care. They are stimulated and appropriately challenged by a good selection of toys and resources which are suitable for their age and ability level. Activities such as making Christmas cards are well planned and resourced so children are able to make choices for themselves and create for their own purpose. They feel their work is valued, as the childminder keeps it safe for them until their next visit.

Children are able to explore, both in and out of doors. The garden is easily accessible from the main play area. They are able to make decisions as the childminder routinely offers children different options, for example, offering children a choice from several types of paper to make their Christmas cards.

The childminder offers a variety of activities which promote children's all-round development. They enjoy craft activities, imaginary play, board games and constructing. She takes an interest in what children say and do, listening to their ideas and suggestions and using open questions to encourage them to think.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder is well informed so she is able to meet children's individual needs. She takes time to meet with parents before care commences to discuss any specific requirements with them. Children learn about diversity as they enjoy food from a variety of cultures and make use of resources which present positive images of culture, ethnicity and faith.

There are currently no children attending who have learning difficulties or disabilities but the childminder is able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the issues and the need to work closely with parents to ensure such children are effectively supported.

Children behave well. The childminder takes a sensitive approach to managing behaviour. She sets clear ground rules and discusses strategies with parents and children to ensure a consistent approach. Children are encouraged to behave well as the childminder models good behaviour herself and offers children praise appropriately.

The childminder requests written consents from parents and discusses requirements with them to ensure that care is in accordance with their wishes. She speaks with them daily and sends home examples of children's work so they are well informed about their child's progress. The poster for parents is clearly displayed so parents have access to contact details for the regulator. However, there is no system in place to record concerns raised, so parents do not have access to information about any complaints that may be made.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is clear about her responsibility to contact the regulator regarding any significant changes, so children can be suitably protected. She is appropriately qualified and experienced to provide care for young children. Checks have been completed on all household members and children are carefully supervised to ensure their safety.

Appropriate ratios are maintained so children receive suitable levels of adult support. The daily register provides an accurate and up-to-date record of their attendance.

All documentation is stored securely so children's confidentiality is maintained. Records are routinely shared with, and are countersigned by parents to acknowledge entries. The certificate is clearly displayed so parents have access to information about the conditions of registration.

The setting meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection there were three recommendations made. The childminder has since made good progress in addressing these for the benefit of the children. She was asked to ensure that an accident book was maintained. She has implemented a system to ensure that a clear record is in place of all accidents involving children. She was also asked to maintain a daily register. She now ensures that an accurate record of children's attendance is maintained by recording their times of arrival and departure in a daily diary. Finally, she was asked to ensure that parents have access to details of how to contact the regulator. The poster for parents is clearly displayed in the hall way so parents have the contact telephone number readily available.

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 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 the risk of infection is minimised when children dry their hands after washing
- develop knowledge and understanding of legislation regarding the recording of complaints and the sharing of information about complaints with parents

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