



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY304933
Inspection date	20 April 2006
Inspector	Debra Elizabeth Jean Dahlstrom

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 registered in 2005 and lives with her husband and young child in a residential area of Macclesfield. She is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and currently has two children on roll.

Children have access to the whole of the ground floor; toilet and sleep facilities are provided on the first floor. There is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The childminder is able to take and collect children from local schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children take part in a range activities to help promote a healthy life style. Outdoor play, walking to and from school and trips to parks, improves children's physical skills. Children can use a range of good quality equipment to help them develop and improve their coordination. Skittles, balls and musical instruments help promote large and fine motor skills.

Children are welcomed into a clean home, with effective procedures in place to reduce illness and infection. A written sickness policy is shared with parents and children are protected from any potential risk from the pets within the home.

Children are well hydrated during the course of their stay. They regularly help themselves to their drinks, thus demonstrating an awareness of their own needs. The childminder promotes healthy eating, providing children with a range of foods which are well balanced.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled as they move around freely and play in comfort. The risks of accidents are minimised for children as there are a number of safety features in place. The childminder helps children learn about keeping themselves safe, whether it is in the home or walking next to busy roads.

Children have access to a good range of toys and equipment which covers all areas of learning. These resources are readily accessible and allow children to make choices and develop their independence.

The childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and to keep children safe from abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is warm and affectionate to children. She offers lots of smiles, appropriate physical contact by means of cuddles and speaks to children in gentle tones. As a result, children are developing confidence and a sense of security in her care.

Children are encouraged to make choices and to learn to play independently or cooperatively. The childminder is very enthusiastic and is often engaged with the children in their play. However, some of the adult directed play is too advanced for the children. Although children enjoy playing with the packet foods in the pretend

shop, they are unfamiliar with some of the language used to describe money or the mathematic concepts introduced by the childminder. Therefore, children are unable to understand what was asked of them and this effects their interest and motivation to learn.

Children are interested in songs and story; they sit and listen to the childminder as she reads to them. They help turn the pages and sing along to their favourite rhymes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder treats children with equal concern. In the short time they have been in her care, she is learning about their stages of development and their likes and dislikes. As such, children are helped to feel secure, they are valued and their self-esteem is promoted. Children's efforts and achievements are recognised and celebrated.

Children from an early age learn to behave well as the childminder uses praise, explanation and distraction to manage their behaviour. These effective strategies help children to cooperate and understand the needs of others.

Children benefit from positive relationships between the parents and childminder. Systems are in place to ensure that parents are informed about the provision and their children's care. Clearly written policies and procedures are shared with parents prior to placement.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy as the childminder uses her time well to care for them. She sits with them and talks to them, offering reassurances to them and so help them enjoy their stay. The day is planned to take in children's interests and trips to and from pre school settings.

All relevant documentation is in order and readily accessible. This ensures the childminder has all the necessary information in order to provide for children's needs effectively.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. 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.

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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 when planning and delivering activities, that they are appropriate to children's age and stage of development.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk