



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY218149
Inspection date	03 October 2006
Inspector	Maria Keane
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 July 2002. She lives with her husband and daughter aged 14 years, in a detached house in the Ramsbottom area of Lancashire. An extension and conservatory have been built onto the property, specifically designed for childminding purposes. In addition, the children have use of a large living room and kitchen on the ground floor. There are toilet and wash facilities available within this area. The children have access to a fully enclosed rear garden, which is easily accessible from the playroom.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children. The children attend for various sessions throughout the week.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is very committed to developing her knowledge and providing a good quality service.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy physical exercise, which contributes well to their good health. They have daily walks to the local school, as well as fun nature walks. They play on equipment in the rear garden, and on wet days an area in the playroom is made available for them to use bikes and other outdoor play equipment. The youngest children develop their walking skills through extensive opportunities to explore their environment freely.

Children play in a very clean, well organised environment. They learn good hygiene practices through daily routines and discussions, for example, children understand that using tissues and hand washing is important to prevent the spread of germs. Children learn about healthy eating and are offered a good range of healthy foods and snacks. Children are offered drinks throughout the day, however, these are not easily accessible to the children at all times.

There are clear written records in place to protect children, for example, written entries of any medicines administered to children and any accidents sustained. However, in some cases written consent has not been obtained from parents to seek medical advice or attention in the event of an emergency.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are kept very safe and secure because the childminder has a clear understanding of her responsibilities and takes steps to ensure children's safety, for example, a system is installed to alert her of any unwanted visitors around the front or back of the house. The risk of non accidental injury is minimised because the childminder keeps clear risk assessments and uses appropriate precautions; for example, a safety gate is in place to prevent access to the laundry area. Children's welfare is fully safeguarded because the childminder has a good knowledge of child protection procedures and has a clear written policy.

Children are cared for in a calm, homely environment. The children are happy and demonstrate a good sense of belonging. They move around the play rooms with confidence and select resources and activities independently. This child-led approach to learning provides children with many opportunities to lead, organise and learn through play, as well as having lots of fun.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children build very good relationships with the childminder and are happy and settled. They respond very well to the childminder's kind and affectionate approach to them, for example, the childminder sits children on her knee, talks to them and gives them cuddles. Children clearly enjoy sitting with the childminder to play, as they join her on the floor with a range of different activities. Children develop their language, ideas and thinking through the many opportunities to explore the range of accessible resources, in addition, the childminder talks to children during

their play; for example, they talk about the numbers on the clock and their personal experiences. Children spend their time purposefully as they complete jigsaws, dress up, take part in art and craft and enjoy story books.

Children develop social skills through regular attendance at toddler groups. In addition, children learn to share their resources with other children at weekly coffee mornings. They particularly enjoy visits within the community, and more recently the fire service visited the home and children were able to explore the fire engine and ask the fire fighters questions. Children are proud of their displayed art work and enjoy putting art work in their individual files for parents to see.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are very well behaved and have good relationships with each other, for example, older children help and care for younger children during play. Children are always involved in activity, which keeps them interested and purposefully involved in play. The childminder is a good role model, talks to them in a calm manner and encourages good behaviour.

Children learn about diversity through a sufficient range of toys and resources that reflect positive images. They learn about other cultures and religions through the celebration of significant festivals. The childminder values children and works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs and requirements are supported. The children benefit from the positive relationship the childminder develops with the parents. They exchange information daily and ensure a consistent approach to children's care and requirements, for example, the childminder completes programmes of work set by the parents or other agencies.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children are very well cared for. The childminder is very committed to providing a good quality service and ensures children's health, welfare and safety at all times. The space and resources are organised well, which allows children initiate and extend their own play.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the National Standards and keeps herself up to date on child care issues. In addition, she is undertaking a quality assurance accreditation scheme, which allows her to continually develop her childminding practice to benefit all the children in her care. Records and documentation are maintained and reviewed regularly. Children's records are kept confidential and are easily accessible as required.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the previous inspection three issues for improvement were identified. It was recommended that the childminder completes an appropriate first aid course, ensures that a suitable range of resources that promote diversity and anti-discriminatory practice are provided

and improve the safety of children by maintaining smoke alarms and preventing access to the laundry area.

There has been good progress. Children are protected because the childminder has completed a first aid course that includes training in first aid for young children and the certificate is displayed. They have suitable opportunities to learn about diversity through a sufficient range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and through the celebration of significant festivals. Children are kept safe because the smoke alarms are regularly maintained and a safety gate is in place to prevent access to the laundry.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 drinks are available to children at all times
- ensure written medical consent is obtained from all parents to allow for medical advice or treatment to be sought in the future.

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