



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	322643
Inspection date	30 November 2006
Inspector	Susan Janet Lee
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 1999. She lives with her husband and adult son in a semi detached property in Astley, Tyldesley. The childminder holds a childcare qualification.

The lounge, dining room, kitchen and playroom on the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor, are used for childminding purposes. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play. The family have a dog as a pet.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for six children, two of whom are aged over eight years. She is able to take and collect children from the local primary school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment. They stay healthy as the childminder exercises good hygiene practices, to minimise the risk of cross-infection. For example, she follows good standards of hygiene when changing nappies, to help protect very young children. The children learn about personal care routines, as they wash their hands and blow their noses at appropriate times. The children know where the tissues are located and dispose of them appropriately. Effective arrangements are in place regarding the care of pets. There is a first aid box available; however, some items in the first aid box are out of date and may compromise the childminder's ability to deal with accidents efficiently.

The childminder gathers information from parents about their children's dietary needs and takes this information into consideration when planning snacks and meals. As a result, children's dietary requirements are successfully met. The children develop an awareness of healthy eating and they are well nourished, as the childminder provides snacks and meals that are healthy and nutritious. They include lots of fruit, home cooked meals and vegetables, to aid children's growth and development. Mid morning snack time is a relaxed social occasion, where the children are able to eat at their own pace and chat with the childminder.

The younger children are able to rest according to their needs, as the childminder follows children's individual routines; providing a familiar and secure environment. They enjoy lots of positive physical contact with the childminder during personal care routines. The children have opportunities to enjoy and develop their physical skills, as they play in the garden and visit the park. They are able to learn about their bodies and develop control and co-ordination, as they have access to a range of outdoor play equipment; all of which contributes to their good health and physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and homely environment. They benefit from having the use of a playroom, which is well equipped with resources. The children are confident to move about from room to room to extend their play. The childminder organises space effectively to accommodate separate active and quieter activities.

There is a good selection of equipment and furniture available, allowing children to play, rest and eat in comfort. The childminder provides a wide range of resources to meet the needs of the children being cared for. Toys are attractively stored at child height in the playroom, enabling the children to freely choose what they want to play with; enabling them to initiate their own ideas and develop choice and independence. The childminder considers the ages of the children when she stores resources, and ensures that resources for older children which contain smaller pieces, are not accessible to the younger children to minimise risks.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety and has taken all reasonable steps to ensure that the environment in which children are cared for is safe and secure. She supervises the children well, enabling them to play safely and independently. The childminder encourages children's awareness of keeping themselves safe, through discussion and play activities. For example, during a story she talks to the children about the puppy climbing on furniture and that he may fall and hurt himself, she then reminds the children that they are not to climb on the furniture. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of child protection matters and procedures, helping to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has good regard for the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The children have access to a wide range of age appropriate resources and they are happily engaged and occupied.

The children also benefit from activities outside the home, as the childminder utilises local amenities such as the park, trips to feed the ducks, visits to a soft play centre, the zoo and an aquarium. This helps to widen children's first hand experiences.

The childminder dedicates time playing and talking to the children. She sits at the same level as the children as they play and supports them well in their play and learning. She is spontaneous to the children's interests and follows their lead. The childminder nurtures the children's communication skills. She listens when they speak and responds to answer their questions and introduces new words and concepts; helping to reinforce early speech patterns and extend the children's vocabulary. The childminder shares warm relationships with the children, who are happy, confident and secure in her care.

The children enjoy being imaginative as they play with a host of imaginative and small world resources. The childminder helps the children to build a train track. The children are able to access other resources to extend their play. For example, they add people and more trains. The childminder then introduces some buildings to represent a station. The children are engrossed in their play and begin to act out a story line with support from the childminder.

The children snuggle up next to the childminder as she reads a story to them. The childminder uses different tones of voice to add variety and interest. The children are able to anticipate what will happen next as the childminder turns over to the next page. The children clearly enjoy the story and also enjoy sharing a quiet moment to relax with the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder gathers information from parents about their children's individual needs, to enable her to be in a position to best meet these needs. The children learn about their local community through trips out to local amenities. The childminder provides a range of resources that reflect diversity; helping to develop children's awareness of the wider world. The childminder has experience of working in partnership with parents and other professionals, to meet children's additional needs.

The children receive praise for their efforts and achievements, helping to develop their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder acts as a good role model to the children, as she treats them with care and sensitivity and encourages them to share and take turns. As a result, the children begin to develop an awareness of what is expected of them. Good supervision allows the childminder to observe minor altercations before they occur and intervene to distract the children. The children develop a good sense of belonging. On arrival home from school, they enter with ease and confidence and go happily to play. The children enjoy being in the childminder's company and they show increasing confidence to make their needs known.

A good settling in procedure and partnership with parents, help the children to feel secure. The childminder shares information with parents at the end of each day, to keep parents informed about their children's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a childcare qualification and has lots experience of working with children. However, she is in breach of her conditions of registration as she does not have a valid first aid certificate and this compromises her ability to deal with accidents and minor injuries effectively.

The record of children's attendance is up to date and shows ratios are maintained to promote children's care. The childminder organises space, time and resources well to meet children's needs.

Most documentation is in place. It is well organised and the childminder maintains individual children's records to ensure confidentiality; however, there is no system in place to record complaints and the childminder's driving licence is not up to date.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection a recommendation was agreed in relation to documentation. The childminder now has relevant contact details available for use regarding child protection matters.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection in 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 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 the first aid box is checked on a regular basis and replenish the items as needed
- develop awareness of child protection procedures.
- ensure driving licence is up to date and develop a system to record complaints
- undertake first aid training that includes children and young infants.

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