



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312025
Inspection date	01 September 2006
Inspector	Nighat Ghani
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 has been registered since 1999. She lives with her husband and three children aged nine, 12 and 16 years. They live in Droylsden, which is an area of Tameside. The lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen and first floor bathroom are used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to mind four children under eight years and currently there are four children on roll.

The childminder takes the children to the local park and the library on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is promoted in a clean and well maintained environment with plenty of space for children to move about freely. The childminder implements satisfactory hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection. For example, her nappy changing routine includes cleaning the mat and washing her hands after each nappy change. Children wash their hands after using the toilet, however, they are not encouraged to wash their hands before meal-times, which affects their health.

Children enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities that contribute to their physical growth and development. They regularly visit the park where they are able to run around, climb, swing and slide, which helps them to gain control of their bodies. Infants rest needs are met as they sleep in accordance with their own individual needs and parental wishes. For example, after lunch the younger children are tired and have a sleep, while the older children choose to sit and watch television, read a story book or play board games.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents and considers their likes and dislikes when providing meals. Children are provided with healthy and nutritious meals, which contribute to their physical growth and development. However, young children's health is compromised as they are given milk, which is not stored appropriately.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained environment. The organisation of toys and equipment on low secure shelves and boxes means children can move around safely and freely.

The childminder carries out regular risk assessments to ensure children's safety. Safety measures include all hazardous substances are stored in high cupboards, all the sockets have safety covers, safety gates are securely fixed and smoke alarms are in working order. The childminder has devised her emergency evacuation procedures and regularly practises with the children.

Children are protected in the childminder's care as she has satisfactory knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. However, she is not aware of the procedures to follow if an allegation is made against her.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a warm and close relationship with the childminder, which contributes to their sense of belonging. The childminder listens and values what children say and do, she consistently offers praise and encouragement and as a result children develop their confidence and self-esteem.

Children are happy and comfortable in the setting as they join in with the childminder, playing with the dolls. They make choices about what they want to play with as the resources are easily accessible. This develops their independence and choice. Older children are beginning to develop mathematical thinking as they play board games. For example, they count their money and sensibly invest in buying different properties.

Babies enjoy the colours and sounds of manufactured toys, such as activity centres, which they explore with interest. However, babies and young children have insufficient opportunities to make use of their senses and their creative abilities, for example, by accessing natural materials and exploring different sensory experiences.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are made to feel welcome as the childminder treats them with equal concern. The childminder supports children well in their play, giving them meaningful praise and encouragement, which results in children being happy, secure and comfortable in the setting. Children express their needs confidently in an environment where they are valued and respected. Children have access to limited resources that reflect positive images of culture, disability and religion. This hinders their knowledge and understanding of the world around us.

Children's behaviour is good and they are learning to distinguish between right and wrong. The childminder is kind, sensitive and speaks positively to the children. Clear boundaries and simple rules are consistently applied. As a result, the children are well mannered, sensitive towards each other, and are learning to share and play happily together. They understand responsible behaviour, such as sitting together at the table at meal times, and when sharing and taking turns.

The childminder operates a gradual admission policy, which allows children to get familiar with the environment and provides an opportunity for her to get to know the parents. Information is shared verbally with parents on a regular basis, contributing to continuity and consistency of care for children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and relaxed as they have ample space to play in comfortable surroundings. They are happy and enjoy the support the childminder provides, which fosters their confidence and learning. The childminder makes good use of her time and plans her daily routines, so that children's individual needs are met. She organises her home well to accommodate different activities, which encourages children to become confident in making choices and decisions about where they want to play. This helps them to become independent.

Records and documents are accessible and are well organised. However, occasional lapses in the organisation result in some gaps in ensuring the health and safety of the children. The childminder holds a current certificate in first aid. This enables her to take appropriate action in case of an accident.

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 there were six actions raised and these were to ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board; ensure that hazards to children on the premises both inside and outside are minimised; plan and provide a suitable range of activities for children, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs; improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and the National Standards; develop knowledge and understanding of anti-discriminatory practice and provide toys, equipment and materials to promote this and complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

Since last inspection the childminder has updated her child protection procedures, which now comply with those of the Local Safeguarding children Board. The hazards to children both inside and outside the premises have been reduced by the childminder carrying out regular risk assessments. The back garden is not used for the minded children as it is not safe. The activities provided to children are suitable, age appropriate and are based on their individual needs. However, young children are not provided with sensory experiences, which has been raised as a recommendation during this inspection. Through discussion and observations made during this inspection the childminder demonstrated satisfactory understanding of anti-discriminatory practice and there are some resources available for children that reflect different culture, disabilities and religion. A further recommendation has been raised to increase these resources. The childminder has completed her first aid training, which assures that in case of an accident, children in her care will receive appropriate treatment. The childminder demonstrate reasonable understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and the National Standards. All the improvements have contributed to enhancing children's safety.

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.

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):

- improve health and hygiene practices, for example, by ensuring baby milk is stored appropriately and that children learn to wash their hands before eating
- raise awareness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, in respect of allegations made against adults
- provide young children with sensory experiences
- increase resources that reflect equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

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