



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307371
Inspection date	17 October 2006
Inspector	Krystina Chitryn
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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and two sons aged 11 and 15 years, in the Salford area. In addition to the whole of the ground floor, the bathroom and the front bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children at different times, throughout the week. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder has good domestic routines and hygiene practices. She cleans her home daily and wipes surfaces with anti-bacterial spray, which ensures that the children's health is protected. She provides a written sick child policy. The children learn to wash their hands after using the

toilet, before meals and as appropriate. The reasons for good hygiene are explained, for example by encouraging the children to make bubbles with the soap as they learn to wash their hands properly. They have made coloured posters about germs and why they wash their hands and these are displayed. The children also explain to the visitor why it is important to brush their teeth. Health activity packs are provided to help the children to learn about their own personal hygiene, so that they remain healthy.

Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents and written information about the children's dietary requirements, including food allergies are recorded in the contracts. Ensuring the children's good health is maintained. The childminder offers healthy foods and snacks which include noodles, finger sandwiches, salads and fresh fruit. Children have opportunities to sleep and rest according to their needs. Children are able to help themselves to drinks and are actively encouraged to do so, ensuring they remain hydrated.

Children have regular exercise by walking to and from the childminders home, to the school, playgroups and the local park. This helps them to enjoy physical activities and personal fitness.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are clean and well maintained. The furniture is organised so the children have sufficient space to play on the floor. Children sleep in a travel cot in the back bedroom within hearing distance of the childminder, to ensure they do not come to any harm. The childminder carries out a risk assessment daily to ensure the children's safety is maintained.

Children are fully stimulated through the choice of toys that are stored at child height and are accessible so that the children are able to make choices. Children's safety around toys and equipment is maintained, as the childminder makes effective checks and provides good quality toys and equipment. The children learn to tidy up after playing with the equipment, to ensure they do not trip up over toys.

The childminder has an extensive understanding of child protection issues, enabling her to effectively protect the children from harm. She uses incident and accident recordings to identify potential risks and keeps parents well informed. Parents are made aware of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures on admission.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met in a supportive and homely environment. Children are offered reassurance and are comforted with affectionate hugs. They respond with smiles and laughter. This helps them to feel safe and secure.

The children are learning to identify and discuss the items in a treasure basket. They learn about the item and where it comes from. They play in the play house and count the dots on the wall and identify colours. They play with the animals and receive appropriate praise when they make the correct animal sound. Children self-select their toys and play with the childminder

who encourages them to participate in activities. As a result the children are interested in what they are doing. They have access to a good range of toys and activities. They are proud of their achievements and gain confidence and benefit from the praise and encouragement that they receive from the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children have access to a broad selection of toys and equipment which reflect our diverse society. There are some books which show images of people from a variety of cultures and people with disabilities. There are posters on the wall showing people from different cultures and a festival calendar. This increases their understanding of our wider world. The childminder works effectively with parents to ensure that their children's specific health needs are met.

Children with special needs are planned for, so the child's language is developed to ensure that they are supported. The children's records are, however, not utilised to maximum effect to record their progression. The children are well behaved. Their behaviour is managed in a positive manner, through the use of distraction and encouragement. This positive approach is actively encouraged by the childminder who is supportive of the children and is respectful to them. This results in children being successful achievers.

Children benefit from a good relationship between the childminder and their parents. She exchanges information regularly about the children and a good system of communication ensures an effective passage of information. The childminder provides information for parents about each child. Parents have access the childminders file, which contains her policies and general information, this means the parents are kept fully updated and informed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children and their families feel welcome in the childminders home. The childminder has undertaken a variety of training including a Level 3 childcare qualification and training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework. This enables her to have a wider understanding of the children and their needs.

The required documentation is securely in place and is all in order. For example, written parental consent to seek medical attention in an emergency has been requested. Records to support children under the Code of Practice have been devised but are in the early stages of development. The childminder organises her day around the children's needs. Children are cared for appropriately as the required ratios are always maintained. All household members and visitors are subjected to regular checks and visitors are not left unsupervised. 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 the childminder was asked to ensure children are protected from potential hazards indoors and outdoors. The childminder ensures all hazardous materials are stored safely out of the reach of children. This ensures children remain safe and secure.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 complaint 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):

- develop systems for recording information under the Code of Practice about children's individual needs.

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