



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	315848
Inspection date	16 October 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 and holds an early years qualification. She lives in a semi detached property in Bolton, close to local shops and a park.

The lounge, playroom and kitchen 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 childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for five children. She is able to take and collect children from the local primary school and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment. 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 and she uses antibacterial spray to wipe work surfaces and clean potties each time they are used. Children develop an awareness of personal care routines as they wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. The written child health policy ensures appropriate measures are in place for when children are ill.

The childminder gathers information from parents about their children's dietary needs and takes this into account when planning meals and snacks. Children are well nourished as the childminder has a good understanding of the importance of healthy eating and provides meals and snacks that are well balanced and nutritious. For example, snacks include toast, fruit, vegetable sticks and plain biscuits and meals are home cooked; helping to aid children's growth and development. Snack time is a relaxed, social occasion and the childminder sits with the children as they eat and chats to them. The children are able to independently quench their thirst as drinks are readily accessible to them.

The children have lots of opportunities to enjoy and develop their physical skills as they play in the garden each day and visit the park. During play in the garden, the children learn about their body and develop their co-ordination as they rock to and fro on the seesaw to make it go backwards and forwards. They negotiate pathways as they ride their bikes and trucks around the garden and develop hand eye co-ordination as they play with the bats and balls. Photographic documentation shows the children enjoying a trip to a park and also a farm. They play on the slide, swings, climbing frame, jump on a bouncy castle, ride on a donkey and enjoy a picnic in the fresh air; 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.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming environment. Their art work and posters are displayed and this makes for a bright and stimulating environment. The children have access to a dedicated playroom which is well resourced. The childminder organises space to accommodate separate active and quieter activities and the children have plenty of room to move around. There is a good range of equipment and furniture available to allow the 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 rotated to add variety for the children and the childminder checks and cleans resources on a regular basis to minimise risks to children.

The childminder has an awareness of safety and most of the environment in which children are cared for is safe and secure. However, there is no smoke alarm on the ground floor and this compromises fire safety and a low level wire in the garden poses a risk to children. The childminder supervises the children well enabling them to play safely and independently. She

encourages the children's learning in keeping themselves safe through example, gentle reinforcement and explanation. For example, the childminder explains to the children that they may fall and hurt themselves if they walk over the toys and she holds their hands when they go down a step into the garden.

All the required procedures are in place and the childminder has a good understanding of child protection matters and procedures; ensuring children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of children's age and stage of development and she uses her awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to provide a wide range of activities for children under three years of age. The children have access to a range of age appropriate and interesting activities. For example, farm and animals, dolls, books, puzzles, musical instruments, soft toys, tools and a work bench, crayoning and collage activities and outdoor play. As a result, children are actively engaged and occupied. They also benefit from activities outside the home as the childminder utilises local amenities, such as the park, visits to a farm, parent toddler group and Sure Start run activities; helping to widen children's experiences and give them opportunities to socialise with their peers.

The childminder dedicates time playing and talking to the children in her care. She sits on the same level as the children as they play. The children develop good communication skills and listen and respond as the childminder listens to them as they talk and answers using age appropriate language to introduce new words and concepts, such as number and colour. She sits with a child and they look at a book together, the childminder introduces new words as they talk about the pictures.

Toys are stored at child height in the playroom and the children are able to choose freely what they want to play with to initiate their own ideas and extend their play. They are able to extend their play from indoors into the garden. A child plays with a doll, she takes the doll outside to give it a ride in a car.

The children make connections and enjoy playing with interactive toys. A child plays with an interactive shopping trolley that also scans the items and says the name of each item scanned. It also gives the children simple commands, such as 'find the eggs' and the children eagerly find and produce the box of eggs.

The childminder shares warm relationships with the children, who are happy and settled in her care. She has a good understanding of children's individual needs and meets these needs well.

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. There are a range of resources available that reflect diversity

helping children to develop an awareness of the wider world. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards children with special needs.

The childminder uses age appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour and she manages minor altercations successfully between younger children. She sets a good role model to the children as she treats them with care and concern, uses 'please' and 'thank you' and encourages them to share and take turns. As a result, children behave well and develop an awareness of sharing and taking turns from an early age. The children receive praise for their efforts and achievements at every opportunity helping them to develop confidence and self-esteem. They develop a sense of belonging and move about with confidence. The children are able to make decisions as they choose what they would like to play with. The childminder involves the children in daily routines, such as helping to tidy up and helping to butter the toast. She talks to them about what they see and hear. The children play outside and hear a loud noise, the childminder explains that a neighbour is mowing the lawn. The children learn to care for other living creatures as they feed the ducks in the park and bottle feed baby goats on a visit to a farm.

The childminder has some written policies and procedures which she shows and discusses with parents at the initial meeting. Parents sign to confirm they have understood; helping to develop good working relationships and a shared understanding from an early stage. Effective settling in procedures help children to feel secure. The childminder shares verbal information with parents on a daily basis to keep them informed about their children's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder displays her certificate of registration so that it is visible for parents to see. She organises space, time and resources appropriately to meet children's needs.

The childminder 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. Also, she records children's attendance by using a wall chart, but she does not maintain a record of children's attendance in written format.

The childminder has developed some policies and procedures and these are shown to parents. She maintains individual children's records to ensure confidentiality. Documentation is well organised.

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 recommendations were agreed in relation to safety, documentation and information for parents. Safety has been improved as the front and back doors can now be opened easily in the event of an emergency. Written parental consent for medication is in place and parents have been informed of Ofsted's contact details.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 that a smoke alarm is in place on the ground floor and minimise hazards to children outdoors (low level wire)
- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- ensure that a record of children's attendance is maintained in written format.

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