



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317458
Inspection date	05 October 2006
Inspector	Christine Myerscough
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 2006. She lives with her partner and two children aged six and two years. They live in a house in the south of Manchester. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. Bathroom and toilet facilities are upstairs. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. There are currently five children on roll.

The family has a variety of pets. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are suitably protected from the risk of cross infection as they learn about healthy practices. They take delight in gaining stickers to encourage appropriate hygiene routines, such as washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating their meals. Careful attention is given to ensuring thorough hand washing is undertaken and children have individual cloths. The childminder is attentive to the needs of younger children, for example wiping their nose when needed to prevent the spread of germs and adjusting their clothing to help them feel comfortable. A clear written sick child policy ensures the best interests of all children are taken into account. Whilst on outings, the childminder carries a first aid kit to attend to their needs quickly, if required. However, children's health is not fully protected as written consent to seek emergency medical advice or treatment is not in place with parents.

Children are well nourished to promote their growth and development. The childminder prepares homemade meals, such as pasta dishes, fish pie and quiche. Children sit together at the table and have plenty of time to relax and eat food which appeals to their appetite. They tuck in to a good range of fresh fruit at snack time, lick their lips and eagerly ask for extra portions. Children have opportunities to experience new tastes, as every week a different kind of fruit is introduced into their diet. As a consequence, they develop their confidence and learn to enjoy foods they have not tried before, such as Chinese pear. Children keep well refreshed as regular drinks, for example, water and apple juice are on offer. They pick home-grown produce from the childminder's garden and show pleasure as they help to make chutney to share with their families.

Children benefit from a good amount of fresh air and exercise to contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They walk through the park daily on their way to school. Protective clothing, such as waterproof trousers are worn to enable them to go out in all weathers and experience the elements. The childminder's garden is well equipped and provides good opportunities for children to develop their coordination and build their muscular strength. They become confident as they play on the climbing frame, kick balls and learn to ride in wheeled vehicles. A weekly visit to an indoor activity based centre provides challenging experiences for children to explore their physical capabilities.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Generally good practices and procedures keep children safe and secure. For example, there are safety gates on doorways and low-level glass is toughened. Children learn how to protect themselves in the event of a fire or emergency as the childminder involves them in evacuation drills. Effective security arrangements prevent children from unwanted entry into her home. Main doors are kept locked and keys are kept accessible at all times. Children move around freely indoors and without the worry of injuring themselves. They feel reassured as the childminder supervises them closely. Younger children are escorted safely when walking along the pavement as they wear reins or are transported in their buggy. The childminder discusses

dangers, such as the importance of not talking to strangers. This helps them to develop an understanding of how to keep themselves free from harm. However, a fire blanket is not fully accessible in the kitchen and grids in the garden are uncovered, posing a potential trip hazard to children.

Children's work is on display to make the environment welcoming and inviting. The childminder is well equipped to meet children's developing needs. Toys are safe and of good quality to support children's learning. Children become very excited and gain pleasure from selecting and playing with their favourite things. The childminder shares and rotates resources with other childminders to stimulate children's interests and widen their play experiences.

The childminder has a good awareness of indicators of abuse and recognises children's welfare is of paramount importance. She has the necessary documentation in place to enable her to respond appropriately in the event of identifying a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and enjoy their time in the childminder's company and home. The childminder's cheerful manner and patient approach encourages children to be good humoured and self-assured. They have fun together and form trusting and affectionate relationships. Warm smiles and soothing words reassure children and they freely climb on her knee for kisses and hugs.

The childminder devotes her time to playing with children. She gets down to their level and follows their lead. Playing so closely together has a positive impact on children's enthusiasm for learning. They play purposefully, become engrossed in activities and develop good concentration levels. For example, they spend a considerable amount of time exploring a vast range of cars and successfully build tracks for their trains to run along. The childminder uses everyday opportunities to promote children's learning as they identify the colours of the felt tips and count using their fingers. Children look forward and benefit from regular attendance at toddler groups where they can play with other children. This broadens their learning experiences and helps them to become sociable.

Children's communication skills are very well supported. The childminder consistently talks to children and uses effective questioning techniques to promote their understanding and develop their vocabulary. As a consequence, children are confident communicators and take an interest in repeating and learning new words. They develop an enjoyment of books and handle them with care as they lift the flaps to reveal the pictures of favourite animals, such as bats and owls. They enjoy snuggling up to the childminder and listen intently to stories.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed and treated with equal concern. The childminder is in tune with children's different personalities and is sensitive to their individual needs. She has a good understanding of equal opportunities and the ways in which to promote anti-discriminatory

play. Children develop a positive attitude towards others as the childminder answers their questions about similarities and differences in an appropriate and sensitive manner. A range of resources, such as multi-cultural jigsaws and books, reflect diversity to increase children's understanding of the wider world. Boys and girls freely express themselves as they play with a variety of play materials. They visit places of interest on a regular basis, for example the zoo, museum and aquarium, to develop an awareness of the local environment. The childminder has a positive attitude towards inclusion and recognises the importance of working closely with parents to meet children's specific requirements.

Parents are made aware of the management of children's behaviour through discussion and the childminder's policy document. Strong emphasis is placed on encouraging children to play together harmoniously. As a result, they play happily alongside one another and learn to take turns and share. The childminder is highly skilled in managing their behaviour and uses effective techniques to divert their attention. Frequent use of praise helps children to feel good about themselves. They smile with delight and celebrate their own achievements and efforts with spontaneous claps. Children participate in activities to promote positive behaviour and receive a treat on completion of their sticker chart for good cooperation. They demonstrate good manners and are learning to act responsibly as they tidy away toys after use.

An open and friendly approach with parents contributes to establishing an effective working partnership. Time is spent chatting together. A diary is kept for younger children so parents are kept fully informed about their child's day to promote consistency of care. Written policies and procedures are shared with parents so they are in agreement with the care practices.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a positive and very supportive environment. This enhances their confidence and helps them to feel at ease. The day is well planned for children's enjoyment with consistent routines to ensure their well-being. A good balance of activities both in the childminder's home and the local community appeal to their interests. The childminder organises her home well to meet children's needs. They sleep peacefully and undisturbed in the sitting room and have the use of a play room with accessible resources so they can make decisions about their play. This helps them to become independent. Children receive plenty of individual attention and the sharing of experiences on a daily basis helps them to feel secure.

The childminder complies with the conditions of her registration and has completed an Introduction to Childminding Practice course. She holds a valid first aid certificate so she is in a position to administer treatment if necessary, to ensure children's welfare. Advice and guidance from a support childminder is actively sought. This supports the continuous development of her childminding practice to promote positive outcomes for children. Records and documentation are well-organised to ensure the smooth running of her childminding business to maintain children's welfare. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- assess the risks to children in relation to the location of the fire blanket and uncovered grids and take action to minimise these.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk