



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY333255
Inspection date	18 October 2006
Inspector	Barbara Law
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 May 2006. She runs her business from her home, which she shares with her husband their three sons, two of whom are adults, and a dog, in the Blackley area of Manchester. The whole ground floor of the property is used for childminding activities. Toilet and bathroom facilities are upstairs. There is a fully enclosed back garden available for outdoor play. The registration is for six children. Currently there are five children on roll. This registration does not include overnight care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a warm, clean and well maintained home where good hygiene procedures are in place to protect children and minimise the risk of cross infection. For example, the

childminder always wears disposable gloves and aprons when changing nappies. Children wash their hands before handling food and have their own individual towel. Children can rest or sleep in comfort, on the sofa or in the travel cot, when they are tired. They are able to follow their own individual routines and have comforters from home.

Children participate happily in physical play. Walks in the local area, a well equipped garden and regular visits to the playground in the park provides many opportunities for healthy exercise and skilful play on challenging equipment. They benefit from indoor play, such as dancing and group games. This approach fosters children's good health.

Children's health and dietary needs are recorded and acknowledged. The childminder takes account of children's allergies and medical needs. Throughout the day children are kept refreshed and well hydrated. They choose fresh juice, milk or water and frequently help themselves from their cups. They sit together at meal times and enjoy a well balanced diet. Most meals are home cooked and include a variety of fish, meat, vegetables and dairy produce. Fresh fruit is always available for children to help themselves.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play in a warm, welcoming environment and have access to appropriate facilities. Children are safely supervised and are beginning to understand safe boundaries. They are beginning to learn about personal safety, such as road safety, when out walking with the childminder. A procedure is in place relating to emergency evacuation and regular fire drills take place. This enhances children's safety.

Procedures are in place for the safe collection of children from the childminder's home. Children freely choose from the selection of good quality, clean toys and equipment, which are easily accessible to them, thereby minimising risks. Safety standards are maintained with all resources and children are encouraged to help tidy away and take care of equipment.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and procedures, which she shares with parents. She understands her role to protect the welfare of the child and to ensure they are fully safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle quickly with the childminder and eagerly explore the interesting play opportunities offered. A variety of exciting resources and activities are offered to stimulate and maintain children's interest. Children are able to play freely to develop their skills with the childminder intervening and extending play by introducing extra resources and additional ideas. For example, the children are given 'junk' materials to make a pets corner for their soft toys and animals. Children enjoy visiting facilities in the local area, such as toddler groups and the park. This widens their understanding of the local environment and extends their social circle and experiences.

Children share warm relationships with the childminder with hugs and affectionate gestures being freely exchanged. Communication and language skills are fostered by the childminder as she listens and responds to children's early speech patterns. Non-verbal communication is acknowledged and gestures, such as shrugs, smiles and squeals, are interpreted and reinforced with words, praise and gestures. The childminder uses her knowledge of child development to provide some interesting and appealing experiences for children. She uses her knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to understand and predict the next steps for young children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children securely and happily explore the opportunities available. They are gradually learning to understand and respect boundaries, and about right from wrong in a supportive and caring environment. Children are offered regular praise, reassuring smiles and appropriate physical contact from the childminder. This boosts their self-esteem and promotes confidence in their own abilities. Appropriate strategies are in use to promote positive behaviour according to the children's differing ability and characters. For example, working in partnership with parent and school to provide consistency.

Children are becoming independent. They help to tidy away toys before selecting alternatives. Children make choices and select resources in their own play activities. They play with all the resources, participating in role play with each other and the childminder. However, the play materials contain few positive images of our diverse society and this limits children's understanding of the wider world.

Information about individual children's progress and interesting events are shared with parents via a daily diary and verbally each day. This ensures children's continuity of care and creates links between home and the childminder. Parents are provided with information relating to policies, procedures and the setting via a portfolio and a wall display.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are well cared for. They benefit from good organisation and the care of an enthusiastic childminder. Their development is enhanced by the individual support they receive and good time management, which ensures their emotional, physical and developmental needs are met. Children actively contribute to their care by making decisions about their play.

All required documentation and records are well maintained and kept up to date and children's progress is shared with parents. Children are protected from harm by the childminder's vigilance and supervision. Her service is enhanced by her commitment to ongoing training.

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 require the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet 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):

- increase resources to reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability.

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