



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	134351
Inspection date	03 November 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 1989. She lives with her partner and three children aged eight, 15 and 17 in a property in Tyldesley.

The lounge and dining room on the ground floor and the bathroom and the rear bedroom 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 five children at any one time and is currently caring for two children. She is able to take and collect children from the local primary school and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an appropriately maintained environment. The childminder exercises 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. The children learn about personal care routines as they wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of childhood illnesses and exclusion periods ensuring that effective measures are taken when children are ill.

The childminder works in accordance to parent's wishes regarding the provision of food and drink. She ensures that food provided by the parents is appropriately stored to reduce the risk of contamination. The childminder provides snacks that include fruit and cereal bars to help aid children's growth and development. The children are able to independently quench their thirst as drinks are readily accessible to them. The childminder ensures that babies are given drinks at regular intervals.

Babies benefit routines that are consistent to the experiences at home as the childminder follows their individual sleep and meal routines; providing a familiar and secure environment. Babies benefit from close contact with the childminder as she nurses them when they wake from their sleep until they are happy to play. Very young children are able to move around freely and practise their large physical skills, such as sitting, crawling and walking. Older children have opportunities to enjoy and develop their physical skills as they play in the garden and utilise a local playing field to play ball games. They walk to and from school each day in the fresh air which contributes to their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a homely environment. There is a good selection of equipment and furniture available allowing babies and older 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 stored at child height enabling the children to freely choose what they want to play with; encouraging them to initiate their own ideas and helping to develop choice and independence. The childminder organises the storage of resources so that toys for older children that may have small parts are inaccessible to the younger children; helping to minimise risks.

The childminder has a good awareness of safety and all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the environment in which children are cared for is safe and secure. The childminder has considered an emergency evacuation procedure but has not practised this with minded children. As a result, the childminder is not aware how the procedure would work in practice and the children do not develop an awareness of what to do in the event of an emergency, such as a fire. The childminder encourages children's learning in keeping themselves safe through age appropriate discussion and explanation. Good supervision allows the children to

play safely and independently. Older children learn about the 'Green Cross Code' and stranger danger during their walk to and from school.

All the required documentation is available for reference and the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection matters and procedures; helping to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provides a range of age appropriate activities for the children in her care and they are actively engaged and occupied. She spends time playing and talking to the children and she sits on the same level as them as they play and interacts with them to extend their language and to introduce new words and concepts. The childminder shares warm relationships with the children, who are happy and settled in her care.

Babies begin to find a voice as the childminder nurtures their attempts to communicate. She listens when they babble and then responds in gentle tones to reinforce early speech patterns. The childminder offers positive physical contact by means of hugs and cuddles to help the children feel secure.

Very young children begin to make meaning and they explore using their senses. They look at a book with the childminder and feel the textured pictures with their fingers. They begin to make meaning as they play with an interconnecting wheel activity. They turn the wheels separately and then the childminder supports them in piecing the wheels together so that they all work together to make one movement.

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 environment through trips out and walks. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards children with special needs.

The childminder uses age appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour. As a result, the children develop an awareness of what is expected of them. The childminder acts as a good role model to the children as she treats them with care and concern, listens when they speak and uses 'please' and 'thank you'. The children receive praise for their efforts and achievements; helping to develop their confidence and self-esteem. They develop a sense of belonging and are content in the childminder's home and care.

A gradual settling in procedure helps children feel secure. The childminder shares information with parents on a daily basis to keep them informed about their children's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a valid first aid certificate ensuring she has up to date awareness of what to do in the event of an accident or minor injury.

The record of children's attendance shows that ratios are maintained to promote children's care. The childminder organises space, time and resources appropriately to meet children's needs.

Most required documentation is in place and the organisation of records is satisfactory. However, written parental consent for emergency medical attention is not in place and there is no system to record complaints.

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 an action and recommendations were agreed in relation to child protection, resources that reflect diversity, documentation and the vetting of persons over the age of 16 living in the household.

The childminder has attended additional child protection training to develop her awareness of child protection matters. She has purchased some resources that reflect diversity, however, these are still limited, and as a result children do not have sufficient opportunities to learn about the wider world. The organisation and confidentiality of records is now satisfactory. The recommendation regarding documentation from the previous inspection is ongoing. The childminder's adult son has been vetted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 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):

- practise the emergency evacuation procedure with minded children
- continue to extend resources that reflect diversity
- request written parental consent for emergency medical attention, develop a system to record complaints and further improve the organisation of records to ensure confidentiality.

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