



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307411
Inspection date	07 November 2006
Inspector	Julie Firth
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 has been registered for 20 years. She lives with her husband and one adult son in Walkden within walking distance of schools, parks and shops.

The whole of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years and there are currently seven children on roll.

The family have a dog.

She takes children to and collects them from the local school and attends the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. A good selection of indoor and outdoor play equipment in the childminder's home and garden foster under threes' and older children's physical development. Children also benefit from regular visits to the park and local groups. They are becoming aware of their own needs, such as time for a rest or drink.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are consistently learning of the importance of good hygiene and personal care. There is a written health and hygiene policy in place which reflects in her practice. Children have an understanding of why they must wash their hands after playing outside, stroking the dog and using the toilet, reducing the risk of cross contamination. There is an effective sick child policy, which excludes children who are ill from the setting, preventing infections being spread.

Children's growth and development is promoted by the provision of healthy meals and snacks. They make choices about their snacks and the childminder works closely with parents and respects their wishes when planning the menus. They have access to drinking water, fresh fruit and vegetables at all times and have their own named cups and plates.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a safe and secure environment for children to play in comfort. The children can move freely around the areas of the ground floor to access different types of play. She has given thought to making areas used by children safe with effective risk assessments in place. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through discussions with the childminder about road safety on the way to groups, school and the park. The children make lollipops the same as they observe when crossing the road and learn about road safety as they play.

Children's independence skills are well fostered as they access a varied range of good quality materials and equipment which meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors children's choice of toys and activities to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Care is taken to ensure babies do not have access to toys which may cause them any harm and older children learn to keep small items out of reach. All the children have a sound understanding of emergency fire escape procedures and have the opportunity to practise them regularly.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted as the childminder has a secure knowledge of child protection procedures that are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She has attended recent child protection training.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children benefit from familiar routines in the relaxed and friendly environment. They are happy and enjoy their time with the childminder who takes time to get to know the children in her care. This enables her to successfully meet children's individual needs. She takes time to listen to the children and question them about their school day. They relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at local groups. The childminder plans her day well to ensure all individual needs and interests are met, as a result children are motivated and make good links in all areas of their learning. Trips are planned during the school holidays to places of interest, enabling children to have experience of their environment. They enjoy the homely environment and enjoy walking around the shops in the local area. Their imaginative skills are enhanced as they dress up during role play and push the dolls in the pram. Older children make their own paper clothes cut out of magazines and participate in t-shirt printing. They are developing good language and communication skills through a variety of informal and planned activities. Photographs display children smiling having their picture taken with the local post van relating it to Postman Pat. They enjoy their trip to Manchester to observe all the different model cows placed in the town centre. The childminder extends this activity finding the cows on the computer with the children.

Children are engaged in a range of appropriate activities which they clearly enjoy, such as crafts, counting and matching games, music, baking cakes and biscuits. All board games encourage the taking of turns and promotes their knowledge and skills. She is constantly talking about colours, numbers, teaching them to tie shoe laces and encouraging them to write their names. Children become independent as they freely choose between a variety of toys, books and activities both indoors and outdoors. The childminder frequently reads to the children and asks them questions about the book to develop their language and communication skills. Babies have the opportunity to experience different textures, for example, through a selection of feely bags containing wooden spoons, wool and cloth. They have opportunities to play in the sand to enhance their sensory development, and sensory and sound action toys are readily available for exploratory play. She is familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Young children show an interest in the routine activities of the day. She sets herself as a positive role model and treats all children with individual care and respect. A good settling in policy enables children to become familiar with their surroundings. Children have access to a wide range of experiences, such as celebrating religious festivals, learning about other countries and accessing resources which reflect equality of opportunity. An older child has recently travelled to India and the childminder has asked her to speak about the country and show the other children objects she has brought back. This activity allows children to appreciate the diverse society in which they live.

Children show care and concern for each other and the older children play together harmoniously with the younger children. The childminder ensures that all children are included and play in an inclusive environment. She adapts her setting for children with special needs. Children

behave well, with the childminder adopting consistent procedures to manage their behaviour. Their self-esteem and confidence is fostered as the childminder praises children's efforts and achievements and children proudly take home their work to show their parents.

Children benefit from the positive, close relationship that has developed between the childminder and their parents. The childminder seeks a wealth of information from parents to ensure that she is in a position to offer the best possible care. Effective systems and detailed policies are in place to keep parents informed about the provision and their children's care. All the parents have the highest regard for the service she provides, commenting on the 'good standard of care' that their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is committed to improving the quality of care she provides to children and to support her professional development she attends regular training. She has recently undertaken first aid, child protection, 'Birth to three matters' and healthy eating. She is working towards extending her good practice by the provision of written observations and assessments for children.

Children are encouraged to explore opportunities available in clearly defined areas in the childminder's home. She spends time with all her children to help them feel safe and secure and support them in their play. There is a clear timetable in place to facilitate taking children to and collecting them from the local school. She works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met.

A comprehensive range of written policies and procedures is in place which contributes to the safety and well-being of children cared for. However, children's existing injuries are not recorded. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

On her last inspection the childminder was asked to develop methods of sharing information with parents and ask for consent for trips, ensure all records are updated and arrivals and departures are recorded correctly. She was also asked to update knowledge of child protection, implement a sick child's policy and update knowledge of health and hygiene, review the times the children play outside during the hot weather and ensure children have sufficient space when playing outside in the garden.

She has written policies now in place and she informs parents of the care she provides for children on a regular bases. All her records are correctly updated and the register contains the actual times of the children's arrivals and departures. She has attended recent child protection training to ensure children are kept safe. She has attended a recent healthy eating course, applies sun cream with written permission from parents and has a written health and hygiene policy which she adheres to when minding children. These policies and procedures are put into practice to ensure that that children learn about health and hygiene. Her outside space is organised to enable children to play safely and have fun.

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 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):

- record all existing injuries and events to ensure children's safety.

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