



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312150
Inspection date	17 October 2006
Inspector	Julie Wright
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 has been registered since 1996. She lives with her husband and three adult children in the Audenshaw district of Tameside. Minded children have access to the rear lounge, dining room, hall, kitchen and first floor bathroom. Children are able to play outside in the enclosed rear garden.

The family has a pet cat and a rabbit.

The childminder is registered to care for up to six children at any one time. There are currently four children on roll, who attend on a part-time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is appropriately protected through the clear sickness policy, which is included on the contracts and discussed with parents. The childminder has a satisfactory knowledge of childhood illnesses and suitable exclusion periods, which reduces risk of infection for children. The childminder promotes acceptable health and hygiene practice and maintains areas to a suitable standard of cleanliness. The procedures to record accident and medication details effectively promote the health and welfare of children.

Children are taken out regularly for physical play opportunities and fresh air. They enjoy going to the park and using the swings and roundabout. Children develop skills and coordination as they play throw and catch. The childminder provides a reasonable selection of outdoor toys.

Children's dietary requirements are met through the current arrangements made regarding food and drinks. Parents provide packed lunches and clearly discuss their requirements with the childminder. Children are well hydrated as they receive regular drinks of water or dilute juice.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are familiar with the premises and move around with confidence. There is sufficient space which is defined appropriately to meet the needs of the children attending. Suitable arrangements are in place for children to sleep and relax during the day. Resources are clearly organised, well maintained and made accessible to children. Children make choices and their requests for specific toys or activities are responded to.

Children are generally safe and secure in the home with the majority of hazards minimised. The childminder takes most reasonable measures to prevent accidents. For example, safety gates and cupboard locks are in place and the premises are secure. Suitable emergency evacuation procedures are described, however, fire safety is compromised as there is only one smoke alarm. Safe arrangements to transport children are made and the required parental consents sought.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of the procedures to safeguard children. She demonstrates awareness of signs for concern, however, child welfare is compromised as she is not secure and up to date in her knowledge of the procedures. She has some written information and appropriate contact numbers, but they are not always accessible. The childminder discusses her responsibilities to safeguard children with parents at the introductory visits.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have warm and affectionate relationships with the childminder, her family and each other. They benefit from a suitable range of activities and appropriate routines, which meet

their needs. Children are settled and secure in the setting and are happy to socialise. They enjoy some structured activities which promote learning. For example, the childminder encourages number, colour and letter recognition as they play games. They like to play Bingo, match pictures or copy and colour letters. Activity sheets and books help to develop concentration as children write or draw. Children develop language and listening skills as they listen to and interact with favourite stories. They enjoy using creative play materials, such as paint, glue and glitter. The childminder provides appropriate levels of support to the children and interacts with them as they play.

After school the childminder provides a balance of activities to meet the requests of parents and children. They have time to complete homework, relax as they watch television and have fun. Children benefit from regular outings to the park and local museum, which provides them with interactive learning opportunities. The childminder meets the general care needs of children under the age of three years. However, she does not have formal knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to effectively influence practice, and fully promote the outcomes for children. Younger children have some varied play opportunities, for instance, the childminder may provide a cardboard box or materials with different textures for them to explore. Children are generally well stimulated and make sound progress.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of equal opportunities. Children's individual requirements are clearly discussed and recorded with parents, which ensures consistent care. The childminder knows the children well and is aware of their needs. She plans care arrangements to accommodate children's individual routines, such as when they go to nursery or need to rest. The childminder provides some activities which help children to be aware of similarity and difference in society. Some of the resources reflect positive images of diversity, however, they are minimal in respect of disability.

Children are happy in the care of the childminder and respond well to her positive approach in behaviour management. They understand the expectations of behaviour and simple boundaries, for example, they know not to go in the kitchen unaccompanied. Children show attachment to the childminder and are reassured by her. They develop self-esteem as they are praised and encouraged in their play.

The childminder develops and promotes positive relationships with parents. Written contracts and consents are maintained and regular discussions ensure that individual needs are met. The childminder advises parents of some of the childcare policies, however, there are insufficient details available on the complaints and child protection procedures. Parents provide positive feedback on the care received and value the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and well cared for in the home. They benefit from consistent routines which meet their individual needs. Space is suitably organised and used appropriately for various childminding activities. Children are stimulated and show interest during their time in the setting. The childminder plans suitable routines to ensure that children are occupied and secure in her care.

The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the regulations, as outlined in the National Standards for Childminding. Records and documentation are sufficiently detailed and maintained in reasonable order, which contribute to continuity of care for children. However, child welfare is compromised as first aid and public liability insurance certificates are not consistently maintained. The childminder provides flexible care arrangements to meet the requirements of parents and children. 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 the childminder was asked to further develop the written information for parents. She provides some information for parents and a further recommendation is made.

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):

- provide smoke alarms at each level of the house
- ensure that first aid and public liability insurance certificates are maintained up to date
- update knowledge and awareness of safeguarding children procedures

- improve the information available for parents on child protection procedures and the complaints policy.

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