



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY300362
Inspection date	27 September 2005
Inspector	Susan Elaine Heap

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 January 2005. She lives with her partner and son aged 10 years in the Heywood area of Rochdale. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and the rear bedroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding two children under 5 full time and two children under 8 for occasional care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well-maintained environment. They are learning good health and hygiene procedures through well-established routines such as washing their hands after visiting the toilet or when they put food in the cat bowl. There are effective procedures for nappy changing and arrangements for the care of pets promote good levels of hygiene and ensure that children's health is not compromised.

The childminder ensures children are well nourished by working in close partnership with parents. Parents provide all children's meals which the childminder supplements with healthy snacks and regular fluids. Children know when they need refreshment and freely and independently access fresh fruit juice or ask the childminder for a yogurt. Meal times are a social occasion where children sit together with the childminder. Even the youngest child is part of this as he sits safely in his high chair.

Children are well rested as the childminder provides a comfortable place for children to sleep in line with their individual routines. The childminder is committed to ensuring children have access to physical play which is enjoyable and meets their individual developmental needs. As a result of this, the children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their good health. Each day they have access to indoor or outdoor activities which help them develop control of their bodies, for example, using bats and balls or riding cars in the garden, or building sandcastles and walks in the park. The youngest child is encouraged to stretch and reach for toys to develop his skills at crawling.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe environment where most risks have been identified and minimised, both inside the house and on outings. This includes the provision of corner caps for the dining table, cupboard locks and the use of appropriate car safety restraints. This means that children are able to move around safely and freely. However, an emergency evacuation plan is not in place or practiced with children and all the required fire safety equipment is not available. This compromises children's safety.

A limited range of toys and equipment are available for younger children which are kept in good, safe, clean condition and easily accessible to them. These include suitable furniture for their developmental needs such as high-low chairs and a bouncy cradle.

The childminder has an understanding of how to protect children and keep them safe. She has attended child protection training. However, not all the required information is available.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the welcoming environment and as a result they have formed good relationships with the childminder and each other. The childminder knows the children well and strives to meet their individual needs. This includes encouraging the youngest child to crawl or pre-school children to recognise the numbers on the front of buses as they travel home from school in the car. Children are regularly praised for their achievements which develops their confidence and self-esteem.

Children are beginning to become independent as they choose between the toys and activities which the childminder has set out for them. However, these are not always sufficiently challenging for children to take the next steps, nor do they reflect the wider community. Children benefit from the childminder consulting them about their play, offering choices, playing with and talking to them. They have opportunities to be creative and express themselves with paint and chalks and be part of the community as they visit the local park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and have their individual needs met well. They follow their normal daily routine as discussed with their parents during gradual admission. Relationships with parents are friendly, for example, information is shared verbally on a daily basis.

Children are beginning to understand their own needs and are developing a sense of belonging as they 'snuggle' down amongst the cushions on the settee when they are tired. Children know what is expected of them and show understanding of the ground rules which are in place to protect them. For example they know not to enter the kitchen when the childminder is cooking. She also encourages children to develop good relationships with each other by showing them how to share and take turns in their play. As a result children are learning what is acceptable behaviour.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and at ease in the childminder's care. The organisation of the home allows children to make some choices about their activities. Each child has time to be with the childminder on a one-to-one basis which ensures she meets their individual needs, such as time to eat, rest and play.

The childminder has completed all the required training and all of the legally required documentation is in place. This is completed accurately, however, a copy of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures is not available. Obtaining written parental consent for children over 5 to play upstairs will enhance children's care and

safety and develop working in partnership with parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints to report.

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 a fire blanket in the kitchen; a smoke alarm to the first floor and devise and practice an emergency escape plan
- develop a range of toys and resources to ensure children's' development needs are met which also includes those which reflect positive images of race, gender, culture and disability
- obtain a copy of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures
- obtain parents written permission for children aged over five to play upstairs unsupervised.

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