



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340566
Inspection date	24 January 2007
Inspector	Anne Drinkwater

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 2006. She lives with her three children and granddaughter aged from one to 17 years in the Worsley area of Salford. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time. She currently has one child on roll. The childminder attends local toddler groups and is a member of the National Childminding Association. The family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is well protected. The childminder maintains good standards of cleanliness across her home. The childminder implements consistent practices and there is a separate

hygienic area for nappy changing. Clear policies regarding accidents and medication are shared with parents. A first aid box is within easy reach to attend to children's needs quickly, if required.

Children benefit from a balanced diet to promote their growth and development. For example, they enjoy cheese strips, meats and fruit. The avoidance of foods, such as biscuits and crisps, supports a healthy diet. Children keep well refreshed as their drinks are accessible to them at all times. Mealtimes are a social occasion. Children enjoy sitting together at the table in the playroom. Good support is given by the childminder to encourage younger children to feed themselves. This promotes their growing independence.

Children take part in activities that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Visits to local parks help children to develop their physical skills as they play on park equipment. In warm weather, children have access to the childminder's garden where they have opportunities to exercise their bodies and enjoy the freedom of being outdoors. Musical resources, such as a dance mat, encourage children to move their bodies and express themselves through dance.

Children's well-being is assured. Good recognition of how children's behaviour changes when they are feeling tired helps to ensure they sleep according to their needs. Comfortable furnishings provide for children's rest and relaxation.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. The childminder maintains her home in a good state of repair and decoration to make inviting surroundings for children. This helps them to feel safe and secure. Children play in comfort. The layout of the furniture is effectively organised so they have space to move around with confidence. Toys and equipment are of good quality and meet children's developing needs. Children become excited and gain pleasure from freely selecting their favourite things. This helps to support their independence and builds their natural curiosity as learners.

Risk of accidental injury is mostly minimised as the childminder takes some steps to keep children safe. For example, the childminder maintains close physical proximity as toddlers practise new skills. This enables them to feel reassured. Effective security arrangements protect children from unauthorised entry of persons into the childminder's home. Main doors are kept locked at all times. Suitable fire safety equipment is in place to protect children from harm. There are smoke alarms on both levels of the property and a fire blanket is available in the kitchen. However, the garden is not secure, the fireguard does not prevent access to the fire and low-level cupboards are accessible to the children, as are some loose wires and electric sockets.

Children avoid dangers outdoors. The childminder closely supervises children whilst they play in the park. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. She has an understanding of the procedures to protect children, such as recording any existing injuries.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are very happy in a supportive environment. The childminder spends her time interacting with children to engage them as they play. She gets down to their level and follows their lead. Her enthusiastic and cheerful manner encourages children to be good humoured and self-assured. Children smile often and laugh out loud as they play.

Children play purposefully and show a lively interest in what they do. A good range of activities fosters their learning well and they make good progress in their development. Good emphasis is placed on encouraging children's creativity as they play with dough, paint and explore glitter and glue.

Children's communication skills are very well supported. The childminder consistently talks to children to develop their vocabulary. Effective questioning promotes their understanding and they develop a strong interest in repeating and learning new words. As a result, they become confident communicators and use gestures very well to express themselves. Children practise the sounds of different animals with enthusiasm and listen intently to rhymes. They eagerly take part as they sing and concentrate as they perform the actions to perfection. Regular story telling encourages children to develop a love for the sharing of books. Children benefit from regular attendance at toddler groups where they can play with other children. This broadens their learning experiences and helps them to learn to be sociable. However, the childminder does not make use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children establish good relationships with the childminder and they enjoy spending time together. The childminder is keen to gain a better understanding of equal opportunities; she is keen to promote children learning to value others. The childminder has a positive attitude towards inclusion and recognises the importance of working closely with parents to meet children's individual requirements. However, there are limited play resources reflecting diversity to increase children's awareness of the wider world.

Children are well behaved and respond well to gentle encouragement to help them learn right from wrong. They learn to play cooperatively together and act responsibly as they tidy away toys. Parents are made aware of the management of children's behaviour through discussion. Children receive plenty of praise from the childminder. This boosts their self-esteem and they smile with delight when the childminder tells them how clever they are. They celebrate their own efforts and success with spontaneous claps.

A friendly approach with parents contributes to establishing good relationships. A flexible service is on offer and pre-arranged visits before children start attending help families settle in. Verbal feedback keeps parents well informed regarding their child's day, sleeping patterns and food intake. This promotes consistency of care for children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder complies with the conditions of her registration and has completed an Introduction to Childminding Practice course.

Children are well cared for. The sharing of experiences with the childminder and one another helps to ensure they enjoy a good time. Playing closely together provides plenty of fun and excitement. Children benefit from the use of a dedicated playroom which provides a stimulating, child-friendly environment. This enables them to feel totally secure in their surroundings. The day is organised around children's needs so they have time to rest as well as be active. There is a good balance of activities, both in the childminder's home and the local community, to stimulate children's interests. 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 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):

- ensure the fireguard is fixed, make garden fencing secure and make cupboards, wires and plugs inaccessible to the children
- gain knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to further develop play opportunities for children
- ensure children have the opportunity of exploring resources and activities to promote equality of opportunities.

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