

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY342936
Inspection date	28 March 2007
Inspector	Krystina Chitryn

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 partner and three children aged two, five and seven years in the Salford area. The lounge, dining room and kitchen on the ground floor and the bathroom and two bedrooms on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of three children at any one time. The front garden is available for outside play. The childminder is able to take and collect children from the local primary school and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children generally learn about personal hygiene routines, however, they are not reminded to wash their hands before they sit down to eat their snacks. This does not ensure that children are protected from infection. Children benefit from clean toys and equipment, as the childminder cleans the children's toys and ensures that they are safe. Illnesses are minimised by the effective sick child policy, which ensures that the children's health is satisfactorily maintained and parents are provided with a written policy. The childminder is aware of children's individual health needs

as these are recorded in the children's file. The children are supervised at all times ensuring they are safe and protected from harm.

Children benefit from daily fresh air and regular exercise. They enjoy outdoor play, walk to school and they visit the local park, country parks and play groups. The childminder provides healthy home cooked food, this ensures the children's good health is maintained and they discuss the benefits of eating healthy food. The children cannot help themselves to drinks independently but they are provided with a drink at snack time and when they request one. The childminder discusses dietary needs with parents and records the information ensuring that children's needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a well organised and safe environment. For example, the furniture is arranged so that the children have sufficient space to play on the floor and the childminder checks the premises and undertakes a daily risk assessment to ensure the children do not come to any harm. For example, appropriate safety equipment, such as socket covers and smoke alarms are used throughout the home.

Children's safety around toys and equipment is maintained as the childminder checks these daily. Children are stimulated through a selection of toys that are stored at child height and are accessible, and therefore children are able to make informed choices. The children learn to tidy up after playing to ensure that they do not trip up over the toys.

Children are safe both inside and outside of the setting as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues, enabling her to protect the children from harm. She uses incident and accident recordings to identify potential risks and keeps parents informed. Parents are made aware of the safeguarding procedure on admission and are provided with a copy of her policy.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children's personal needs are met in a supportive and homely environment. Children learn to identify colours as they play and they receive the help and support they need from the childminder. Children learn to cooperate and take turns as they sit on the floor and play a 'passing the ball' game with the childminder. Children are learning to look at books and listen to the story. They receive praise and encouragement which helps the children's confidence and they acquire new skills. The childminder talks to the children and asks questions and encourages them to answer helping them to develop their language. Children's welfare is promoted and their individual needs are met as they are comfortable and happy in the setting. The provision for children is further extended through visits to places of interest, such as the country parks and play group.

Children self select their toys and play with the childminder, which encourages them to participate in activities. As a result, the children are interested in what they are doing and enjoy their time in the setting. They have access to a sound range of activities and a variety of materials that helps to develop their skills and awareness.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to a good range of books which reflect diversity and the childminder discusses different festivals which promotes some understanding of the wider world. However, there are no other resources available, therefore children's learning and understanding is not fully promoted. Children with a disability are planned for and are satisfactorily supported during routines.

Children's self-esteem is promoted and as a result, the children are happy and confident. They often receive praise from the childminder, which helps build their self confidence. The children are well behaved and learn about boundaries. The childminder talks to the children about being kind to one another and sharing and actively encourages mutual respect. Children's behaviour is managed in a positive manner, through the use of distraction, explanation and encouragement.

The childminder works effectively with parents to ensure that their children's specific health needs are met. For example, the childminder records information and follows the parent's instructions. All children benefit from continuity of care, which supports their emotional well-being. Parents are generally well informed, however, a complaints log is not available. The childminder exchanges information regularly about the children and provides information sheets about her practice. A good system of communication ensures an effective passage of information.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Most of the required documentation is in place and maintained in a satisfactory order. However, there is no complaints record available. Children are cared for appropriately, for example, the required ratios are always maintained and the day is organised around the children's needs.

All members of the household and any frequent visitors are subjected to clearance checks and visitors are not left unsupervised at any time. This helps to ensure that children are safe from harm. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of 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 require 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 that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti discriminatory practice
- ensure children are able to access drinking water freely at all times
- ensure a complaints record is available to parents.

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