

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503216
Inspection date	27 February 2007
Inspector	Carol Ann Dixon
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 since April 2001. She lives with her husband and two children aged eight and ten years. There are currently six children on roll in full and part time places. The family live in the Middleton area of Rochdale. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed yard available for outdoor play. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups on a regular basis and takes children to the library and park. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children thrive because the childminder follows highly effective procedures and practices which promote their physical, nutritional and health needs. They are cared for in a warm and spotlessly clean home, where they receive exceptional support and guidance from the childminder. Children are gaining an excellent understanding of good hygiene and a real desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care. For example, the childminder explains to younger children what she is doing while washing their hands before snacks to help them to understand and

learn about good hygiene practice. Children delight in daily planned walks, visits to local parks and outdoor activities which provide them with plenty of fresh air and exercise, as a result they learn how exercise keeps them healthy.

Children's health is promoted as drinks are readily available for children. The childminder constantly checks that the baby's cup is filled and easily accessible. She regularly reminds the baby to have a drink and offers the cup. Older children can freely access drinks from a water dispenser. Children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet that includes fresh fruit and vegetables. Excellent partnerships with parents ensure children are encouraged to eat a balanced diet, try new foods and choose healthy options. Children's dietary requirements and preferences are well catered for. The importance of adopting healthy lifestyles is effectively promoted through activities such as baking, discussions about healthy foods, imaginative play and stories. Children are becoming increasingly aware of how to look after themselves and the benefits of healthy eating. Older children enjoy recording their fruit and vegetable intake on daily record charts which encourages their understanding of the importance of eating five portions each day.

Caring relationships are extremely well established and younger children are nurtured through cuddles, words, smiles and eye contact. The childminder ensures they have consistent routines and their own meal and sleeping patterns are followed. Consequently they thrive within the environment, feel secure and their health and emotional well-being is secured.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a safe and very well maintained home where attractive displays and photographs help them to have a sense of belonging. The childminder is extremely vigilant, she has clearly identified potential risks and put in place effective safety precautions to minimise them. Children frequently practice the emergency evacuation plan. This increases their awareness of responsibilities and what to do in an emergency.

The dedicated play room enables children to choose and have freedom of movement where they can relax in comfort or engage in more energetic play. Children are cared for using suitable high quality equipment so that significant parts of their daily routine, such as eating and sleeping, are safely catered for. Space is organised effectively to promote their growing independence and to facilitate all kinds of play experiences such as art and craft activities, sand and water play.

Children are actively involved in organising their environment and keeping themselves safe. They adhere to simple rules such as helping tidy up, walking inside and not climbing on furniture. The childminder has an excellent understanding of how to achieve a balance between freedom and setting safe limits. Children's safety is of immense importance to the childminder who has up to date knowledge of first aid practice. Activities, discussions and stories on safety issues such as road safety and strangers successfully reinforce the importance of children looking after themselves.

Children choose what to play with from a broad range of safe, high quality age appropriate toys and equipment. This promotes their confidence, ability to make choices and become independent. Children are exceptionally well supervised and monitored by the childminder. She skilfully assists them to choose resources appropriate for their age and stage of development. Children are well protected by the childminder who has a clear understanding of child protection policies and procedures and gives utmost priority to their welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children experience a wealth of stimulating activities and thoroughly enjoy their play and learning which significantly contributes to their all-round development. They build upon their natural curiosity as learners as the childminder ably supports them with absorbing and rich resources such as treasure baskets and feely bags. Children are inspired and freely able to express themselves through a variety of media such as painting, potato printing, collage and mark making with different materials. The childminder gives excellent levels of care and attention and uses her understanding of early years guidance, such as 'Birth to three matters' to provide excellent experiences for all children.

The childminder monitors children's progress and development and uses her observations to plan for their next stages. This ensures children are challenged and make good progress in all areas of development. Their day is extremely well organised to provide an extensive range of activities which stimulate their interest. Children eagerly build models with construction equipment and play with imaginative toys. They delight in exploring a wide range of activities, which contribute to their creativity, such as sand and water play, baking and model making. The childminder is very experienced and highly knowledgeable about child development. She recognises that children benefit from opportunities to consolidate their learning and therefore ensures they have plenty of opportunities to investigate and explore the full range of toys and resources available. Children are happy and settled and enjoy choosing their favourite toys and equipment. Younger children freely and confidently move from one activity to another with praise and encouragement from the childminder. They acquire new skills and knowledge everyday, such as successfully posting shapes in to a container, because the childminder supports them well and ensures the environment is stimulating and fun. They engage in lovely interaction with the childminder, who responds to facial expressions and sounds thus promoting early language and social interaction.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children have extensive opportunities to learn about themselves, each other and the world around them through exciting activities, resources and outings. They have access to a superb range of books and equipment that provide positive images. They eagerly participate in activities that help them learn about their own and the religious and cultural beliefs of others. For example, at Chinese New Year they observed the dragon dance and they relish opportunities to bake and taste food for religious and cultural festivals. Children enjoy attending and participating in events at the local Sure Start Centre. This gives them an excellent awareness of wider society and helping them to understand others. They delight in learning about their local community and visit lots of places of interest such as museums, as well as regular country walks, picnics, visits to the library and local parks. This provides them with an extensive range of exciting and enjoyable learning experiences.

The childminder has high expectations of children and supports them to take responsibility for their behaviour. Older children have helped to devise their own house rules. They respond to meaningful praise and the recognition they receive for positive behaviour, such as certificates and star charts. Children are valued as individuals and treated with equal concern. Any children with additional needs are fully included and supported by the childminder who works closely with parents to ensure children's needs are met. An excellent partnership with parents and other agencies contributes significantly to their well-being. The childminder actively seeks

parents' views about their children's needs and interests before the child starts and on a regular basis throughout their attendance. The childminder keeps parents fully informed on how their children are progressing and developing.

The childminder works hard to create a stimulating, child friendly environment for children. She displays their pictures, photographs and work. This contributes to the warm, welcoming, homely environment that all children experience. Information relating to the individual needs of children is obtained from parents. The childminder uses this information and follows parent's wishes with regard to daily routines for younger children, thus ensuring continuity of care between home and the setting.

Children benefit from the extremely effective working relationship that their parents enjoy with the childminder. She has implemented a range of written policies and procedures, including the procedure for managing complaints, which are shared with parents. Parents receive daily feedback about their children's progress and they have access to the development files which also highlight children's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children enthusiastically explore their surroundings and participate in activities in the exceptionally well organised home where indoor and outdoor space is used to maximise play opportunities for children. Children delight in receiving lots of encouragement and attention from the childminder. The childminder continually broadens her childcare knowledge and skills by attending short training courses and those leading to a recognised childcare qualification. She monitors and improves upon the quality of care provided as part of an accredited quality assurance scheme.

The children's care is greatly enhanced by the quality of organisation and the effective way the childminder plans the day to ensure individual needs are met. Children's welfare is promoted through robust policies and procedures which fully support the childminder's excellent practice. All required regulatory documentation is well recorded and maintained, however, medication records lack clarity.

Children benefit from having continuity. The childminder has an excellent partnership with parents, she shares and exchanges information verbally and in writing with parents. This ensures parents are kept well informed about their child's day, progress and any issues. Children thrive in the caring environment and are making excellent progress in all areas of development. 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 a recommendation was made to ensure that parents were aware of how to make a complaint to Ofsted should the need arise. The childminder has revised her complaints procedure and this now includes the telephone number and address of the regulator, thereby improving outcomes for children should parents wish to raise any concerns.

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 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):

- improve documentation on administration of medication.

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