

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307427
Inspection date	30 April 2007
Inspector	Judith Anne Kerr

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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband, one adult child and one child aged 14 in the Walkden area of Salford, Manchester. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outdoor play. The family has some tropical fish and goldfish.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children and is currently caring for a total of three children on a variety of placements. She works with her husband as an assistant. The childminder walks to and from local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local adult and toddler group and takes children to the park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a broad range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have the opportunity to develop control of their bodies. For example, children enjoy trips out to the

park where they can swing, slide and chase around. This helps them to develop coordination and balance and promotes their physical development.

Children are cared for in a very clean home where they learn about good hygiene habits, such as washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. The childminder implements beneficial hygiene procedures such as wiping down surfaces on a regular basis. This minimises the risks to children of cross infection. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and implements clear procedures to exclude sick children and record accidents and medication. This helps to keep children healthy.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear understanding of a healthy diet. They are beginning to understand the importance of making healthy choices, such as fruit and vegetables to support their physical well being and development. Children's individual dietary needs are recorded and respected at all times. This ensures that children's individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a well maintained home where the childminder gives priority to safety. The childminder has taken most steps to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. For example, a fire blanket is provided in the kitchen and the pond is securely covered. However, there is an uncovered drain in the garden and the cupboard containing the hot water tank is accessible. These pose a risk to children's safety. Children are beginning to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains boundaries. For example, she ensures the children understand the importance of holding hands, following her instructions and the green cross code when they are outdoors.

Toys and resources are varied, suitable and easily accessible. This allows children to make choices and develop their independence. The childminder carefully supervises children's choices of toys to ensure they are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has the required documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has a good understanding of child protection issues and procedures. This ensures children are well protected from harm and abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are provided with a wide range of age appropriate activities which enable them to learn new skills while enjoying themselves. The childminder dedicates her time to playing and talking to the children. She shares warm, caring relationships with them and offers lots of positive physical contact by means of hugs and cuddles. As a result, children are happy, content and relaxed in her home and care. The children benefit from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home.

Children enjoy planting sunflower seeds which they then water and see how they grow. They relish watching the seeds grow into flowers and demonstrate which flower is the biggest and who planted it. The children particularly enjoy painting the shed and flags with water or paint. This allows them to be creative and also encourages early mathematical concepts as they talk about having more or less water in the bucket. The childminder encourages children's early

communication skills. She sings songs, such as 'three cheeky monkeys' to reinforce early speech patterns.

The childminder utilises local amenities such as the country park and nearby farm to widen children's experiences. This increases their awareness of the world around them and allows them opportunities to learn about the animals including ponies, lambs, chickens and ducks. Children are able to socialise with other children when they visit the local toddler group. This helps them to become confident and independent.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides resources such as books, jigsaws and dolls which reflect diversity and give the children opportunities to learn about the wider community. As a result, children learn about differences in society and how to develop a positive attitude towards others. The childminder has a positive attitude towards the inclusion of all children and works in close partnership with parents to ensure any specific needs are met.

The children behave very well and respond to the consistent boundaries set by the childminder. She speaks to the children in a calm and sensitive manner. For example, she reminds the children why it is important to take their time and not rush on the stairs. Children's efforts and achievements are continually celebrated; this promotes their confidence and self esteem.

Children benefit from the fine relationships the childminder has developed with parents. The progress of young children is discussed and reviewed frequently to ensure consistency and continuity of care. Daily informal discussions at the end of the day keep parents informed about the provision and their children's activities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's good organisation. They feel at home and at ease in a well arranged environment. There is lots of space to play in comfort with resources being organised to promote their independence. This encourages them to make their own choices about their play and learning.

The childminder is committed to improving the high quality of care she provides for the children. To support her professional development she attends ongoing training, such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework. All adults with access to the children are suitable and ratios of adults to children are met at all times. This helps to keep children safe. All the required documentation is in place and well organised. This promotes continuity of care for the children and promotes their health and well being.

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 agreed to put an incident log in place and provide children with resources to promote positive images of gender and disability.

Procedures to record incidents are in place to ensure parents are fully informed. Resources, such as dolls and the book 'Six Blind Men and the Elephant', are in place to encourage children to develop a positive attitude towards equality of opportunity.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- ensure the drain in the garden and the hot water tank in the bathroom are inaccessible to children.

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