

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316063
Inspection date	04 July 2007
Inspector	Marina Anna Howarth
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 1992. She lives with her husband and two children aged 16 and 17 years in Bamford, near Rochdale. The living room and kitchen diner is used for childminding, with toilet facilities located on the ground floor.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time. She is currently minding five children over five years before and after school and occasionally during the school holidays. She walks to the local school to take and collect children. She takes children to the park and on nature walks within the area. The family have a pet dog and two turtles. The childminder does not offer overnight care for children.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where the childminder actively promotes good hygiene practice by implementing regular routines for cleaning the home and equipment. Children are learning how to keep themselves healthy through personal hygiene and care and

taking responsibility for themselves. For example, they know it is important to wash their hands after playing outside, touching the dog and after visiting the toilet. They are aware that they are washing away the germs, which are invisible and can cause illness.

The childminder gives high regard to meeting children's individual needs. For example, she operates a flexible routine where children are able to participate in activities or relax reading, resting or watching television. As a result of this, children are comfortable and at ease in the setting and continuity of care is maintained. Children are alert and healthy because the childminder provides them with daily opportunities for physical exercise and fresh air. For example, they visit the park on the way home from school or go on nature walks. One child states 'I like to play football with my friends.' Another child states 'I like to run around, play tag and climb on the equipment'

Children are learning about healthy eating as the childminder provides them with a healthy selection of breakfast and snacks. Their individual dietary needs are met because she works well with parents, who are kept informed through daily verbal communication. Snacks and meal times are an ideal social opportunity for children, who sit together and share their experiences and relate to each other while they are eating. They are offered a choice of refreshments which are continually available to them and when they visit the park, the childminder ensures water is available to prevent them becoming dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where risks are identified and minimised. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives high regard to children's safety both indoors and outdoors. Children learn about keeping safe and the consequences of their actions. For example, one child states 'we do not touch anything electrical as this is very dangerous and may cause us to have a nasty accident.' They are aware of the house rules which are discussed on a regular basis and explanations are always offered with regard to safety. Children are developing an awareness of fire safety as the childminder has devised emergency evacuation procedures which are practised on a regular basis with the children.

Children are protected well. The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has a good understanding of child protection procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. She has actively participated in training and as a result, children's safety remains paramount.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very confident and settled at the childminder's house. They play well together and are learning to care for and look after things and each other. They are independent as they choose between a variety of toys and resources which the childminder ensures is easily accessed. Children also benefit from the regular consultations the childminder has with them about their play. As a result, they feel valued as they are listened to and respected. For example, one child likes to do maths and is given a pencil and paper and encouraged to create his own maths problems to solve.

A warm, loving relationship between the childminder and children is evident as they respond and interact positively together. The childminder listens to and values what they say and has a very good knowledge and understanding of how children develop and progress. She is sensitive to their individual needs and children are happy and want to discuss their experiences. All children benefit from the childminder's in-depth knowledge of meeting their individual needs through regular consultation with the parents. Children are provided with routines that offer stability, familiarity and the opportunity to have fun.

Children are involved and interested in their play and they are happy to participate in activities provided, they make positive relationships with their peers and play co-operatively together, sharing, taking turns and taking interest in different conversations. Children state that they enjoy going to the childminder's as they have 'lots of fun', they enjoy being with their friends and they like what they play with.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are learning about the differences in society through their own observations and discussions with the childminder. They become aware of the wider world through the provision of resources obtained from the local resource centre. These are changed on a regular basis to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the world. The childminder offers sensitive explanations when discussing people with disabilities and children are given opportunities to taste foods from different cultures. There is no gender bias and they are able to explore a selection of resources which are made accessible to them in a variety of ways. This ensures they all feel included and valued.

Children have their individual needs met as the childminder has established good relationships with each child. She knows the children well, what makes them happy, their interests, their family background and they clearly feel at ease in her company, sharing experiences and laughter. They are learning to understand responsible behaviour, as the childminder has implemented ground rules which are discussed at regular intervals. One child states 'we are not allowed to fight each other, even play fighting as some-one may get hurt'. Their behaviour is good as they work harmoniously with others. For example, the children sit happily together at the table and share a variety of materials for their craft activity. They are aware of their own needs and the needs of others. For example; during a sticking activity one child assists another child with her chair so she is able to sit closer to the table to access the resources.

The childminder has developed good relationships with parents. She values and respects their opinions ensures that time is made for daily verbal feedback, detailing the children's progress. As a result, children's individual needs are given a high priority and met, ensuring there is consistency of good quality care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Most of the documentation is kept in accordance with the National Standards and is used effectively to promote the safety, care and well-being of the children. However, the daily register does not always show the accurate times of arrival and departure as it is completed in advance. The certificate of registration is shared with parents during admission, but it is not displayed at all times. Policies and procedures are shared with parents during the gradual

admission process and there are effective systems in place for the daily exchange of information regarding children's progress.

The childminder plans her time and resources well to ensure children have access to a range of stimulating, fun and interesting activities both inside and outside the home. Space is well organised and child focussed which provides children with a welcoming, accessible environment which enables them to develop their independence. This also ensures children have a strong sense of belonging as they are familiar where things are kept and move confidently around the environment.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection, three recommendations were raised.

The childminder was requested to develop the range of toys and opportunities for children to experience positive images. She now has access to the local resource centre which enables her to borrow a wide range of resources depicting positive images of gender, race and disability. These are changed on a regular basis which enables children to develop their knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

The childminder was requested to ensure that accident records are more detailed. The childminder now ensures that all records of accidents contain the relevant details and information which are countersigned by parents after each entry.

The childminder was requested to improve fire safety precautions by maintaining a smoke alarm on the first floor and to make sure that all potential hazards are inaccessible to the children. The childminder has now moved into a new premises where all potential hazards have been effectively reduced.

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):

- ensure that the registration certificate is displayed at all times and that the daily register includes an accurate record of times of arrival and departure.

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