

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY343508
Inspection date 12 April 2007
Inspector Susan Magaret Lyon

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 2006 to care for five children. She lives with her partner and daughter in a semi-detached house in Manchester. The rooms and areas of the house used for childminding are lounge, kitchen/dining room, upstairs bathroom, back bedroom and rear garden. There is a pet cat in the household. The childminder provides an out of school service from local primary schools. There are currently six children on roll. The childminder has a child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children show good understanding of hygiene practices and respond well to routine, such as washing hands after playing outdoors and before food. They are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. Children are adequately protected from infection through the exclusion of children who may be infectious, appropriate use of tissues and satisfactory routines for nappy changing. Children enjoy physical play outdoors using a range of equipment to keep them healthy. They play out in all weathers and understand the need for appropriate clothing to protect them from

the rain or cold. The childminder provides good opportunity for children to be active indoors through dance, music and movement. This contributes to keeping them fit and healthy. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs improving their health and well-being.

Children are nourished well through a variety of healthy meals and snacks. For example, pasta, fish and fresh fruit. Their health and dietary needs are met through appropriate discussions with parents and the recording of allergies and intolerances. Drinks are provided throughout the day promoting children's good health. During baking activities children learn about healthy foods through discussions about different ingredients. Children are encouraged to serve their own lunch, use a knife and fork and help set the table. This contributes significantly to the development of their self-help skills and confidence.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Space and resources are organised to allow children to move around freely and safely. Play areas are bright, welcoming and child-centred. Children use suitable and safe toys and equipment. Good routines are in place for keeping toys clean and hygienic by involving children to help as an activity. Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment through the childminder taking some precautions to minimise hazards. For example, safety gates and socket covers are in place. However, the lack of security in the back garden puts children's safety at risk. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder puts satisfactory safety measures in place, such as using wrist straps and holding hands.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through appropriate discussions regarding road safety. Their safety is enhanced due to the childminder's awareness of fire prevention. Children begin to understand about fire safety through discussions regarding the emergency escape plan, although this has not been practised. Children are kept safe through close supervision. They are protected because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role in child protection and appropriate procedures to follow if needed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the childminder giving them lots of praise for effort and achievement. Children show great interest and engage well in a broad range of stimulating activities. For example, floating and sinking water activity, tent making and painting using bubble wrap. They acquire new knowledge and skills through educational resources, such as colour and number posters. Children are encouraged to make positive relationships through sharing and taking turns, and as a result they show consideration for one another and are well-mannered.

Children are freely able to make choices in their play and pursue their interests, for example by selecting a favourite activity. Well organised resources help children to become independent learners. Children are very happy and settled because the childminder supports their play well and gives high priority to gradually introducing new children to the setting. Babies and young children can explore and are interested in textures of natural materials and objects through the use of treasure baskets. Through a range of art and craft materials children develop their imagination and creativity, thus promoting their sense of achievement and enjoyment. For example by making Easter baskets and bubble pictures.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging through a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder. They are valued and made to feel important through their art work being displayed. Children become aware of the wider world by using a range of play resources reflecting disability, race and culture. They develop good awareness of the needs of others through the childminder encouraging the older children to help the younger ones. For example, by helping them to fasten their coats. She ensures all the children are fully involved in the life of the setting through working closely with parents and other professionals, and adapting activities to suit all level's of ability.

Children behave well. They begin to understand responsible behaviour through clear boundaries and explanations. Children are cared for by a childminder who generally works with parents to meet individual needs by recording children's details and obtaining written consent. However, some parents consent is missing regarding emergency medical treatment, impacting on the individual care of children. Children's care is enhanced through the daily exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare, and the completion of 'day sheets' informing parents of how their child has been and what they have done.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are safe and protected as the childminder fully understands the need for the vetting of household members. She is clearly aware of the importance of maintaining adequate ratios, thus improving the safety of the children. The childminder organises her time, space and resources well to meet children's needs. Children benefit from visits to facilities in the local community, such as parks, library and adult and toddler groups. Children's care is enhanced through the childminder's commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills through attending further training. For example, first aid and a dental health workshop. A detailed and comprehensive range of policies are in place and shared with parents. Observations are recorded regarding children's achievements. The information is used to plan appropriate activities to help children progress and develop in all areas. This contributes significantly to the care and well-being of children. 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 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):

- make garden secure so children cannot leave unsupervised
- obtain parents consent for emergency medical treatment.

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