



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	322555
Inspection date	15 June 2006
Inspector	Victoria Gail Halliwell

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 2000. She lives with one adult son and one child aged 14 years in Astley, Tyldesley. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding one pre-school child occasionally and seven school age children on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

There were no children present during this inspection.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm clean home. Standards of cleanliness are very good throughout the home, which helps prevent the spread of infection and maintain the children's good health. The childminder is familiar with systems to enable her to administer medication appropriately. Her first aid box is suitably equipped to enable her to provide first aid treatment in the event of a minor accident, however her first aid certificate is no longer valid.

Children are not encouraged to eat healthily. Children frequently receive a snack of crisps, sweets or biscuits after school which do not ensure the children are well nourished. Children eat their snacks in the living room, there are no dining facilities available. Children's thirst is quenched by regular drinks which are both offered by the childminder and provided on request.

Children are encouraged to play outdoors during the summer months. The childminder takes outdoor play materials such as bats and balls for the children to use on the large playing fields between school and home. This promotes physical activity and encourages the children to play out in the fresh air and sunshine which helps keep them healthy.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder creates a welcoming and child friendly environment, many of the childminder's toys are located in the entrance hallway and are visible to the children on arrival. Children are reported to select their own resources and take toys of their choice through to the living room. Adequate clear space is available for floor play, a small table is provided on request if children wish to engage in table top activities.

Children's safety is well promoted. The childminder has a good understanding of safety within her home and garden. She routinely checks her home for potential hazards and takes appropriate action so that school age children can move around safely.

Children's welfare is safeguarded by the childminder who has a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues. She is able to identify possible signs and symptoms of abuse and take appropriate action to protect children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder reports good relationships have developed between herself and the children in her care. Minded children also enjoy the company of her own sons who often engage in current trends such as playing Yu-gi-oh cards. Through discussion the childminder demonstrated her awareness of individual personalities and preferences. For example, some children like to relax and chat whilst others prefer to build Lego models or play outdoors following a day at school.

Activities and games are most often led by the children, who are encouraged to make their own choices. On occasions when holiday care is provided, the childminder talks to the children about what they would like to do, then plans outings and trips which interest them such as swimming. Children have the opportunity to complete a 'holiday book' which records their activities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

All children are treated with equal concern. They have free access to the childminders toys and resources and are encouraged to participate in activities regardless of gender. Children have insufficient opportunities to develop their awareness of a diverse society. However, they do receive a positive response to their own questions. For example, why some people use a wheelchair or stick. A small selection of resources that promote positive images of culture, disability and gender are available, however these are generally more developmentally appropriate for children under school age.

Children are learning right from wrong through the implementation of positive behaviour management strategies. The childminder has a clear understanding of the development of school age children who are seeking additional independence and set's clear boundaries. Children are made aware of what is acceptable and what is not, for example older children may walk in front of the childminder on the way home from school but must stay directly in her sight. Children are aware of the consequences of their actions if their behaviour is unacceptable then they must walk beside the childminder.

Effective working relationships with parents are reported. All relevant parental consents are in place and contracts are regularly reviewed. The childminder frequently exchanges information with parents verbally to ensure she has a good understanding of the children's needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has taken some steps to develop her knowledge of childminding practice through reading relevant guidance and information, such as 'what to do if you're worried a child is being abused'. Additional first aid training is required to ensure a valid first aid certificate is maintained.

All children generally occupy the living room. They are aware that space is sometimes limited and follow the established system of tidying toys away before selecting something else. During dry weather the garden or local fields are well used to provide a greater range of experiences which interest the children and keep them occupied.

All required documentation is maintained to ensure the setting is satisfactorily managed and the welfare of the children is promoted. The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved her knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures so that she can take appropriate action to protect a child from possible harm. She has devised a sick child policy to minimise the risk of a child becoming unwell or contracting an infection whilst in her care. Improvements to attendance records ensure she is able to identify who is present at any given time and that required adult child ratio's are maintained. Some resources that promote positive images are available, although they may not sustain the interest of the school age children currently in the childminder care, further improvements could be made to promote positive images.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.
- extend the range of snacks offered to the children after school to promote healthy eating.
- continue to expand the range of play materials and activities to meet the

needs of school age children.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk