

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 312251 |
| Inspection date | 31 July 2007 |
| Inspector | Kay Margaret Armstrong |
| 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 has been registered since 1990. She lives with her husband and adult daughter, in the Dunkinfield area of Tameside, close to shops, parks and the library. The children have access to the whole of the ground floor of the premises. Outdoor play is provided in the rear garden.

The childminder is registered to care for six children. Currently she cares for seven children, three of whom attend on a full-time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and she gains support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Hygiene procedures are effectively implemented to ensure that children are cared for in a warm, clean home, minimising the risk of cross-infection. Children have a good understanding of the

importance of good hygiene practices. The daily routine and encouragement from the childminder support children in developing good hygiene habits as they wash their hands before meals and after using the bathroom. The childminder uses antibacterial wipes in the kitchen to minimise the risk of cross-infection.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their physical growth and development. They have plenty of fresh air as they are taken out daily. Regular visits to parks and playing in the garden provide plenty of opportunity for children to run around and use large equipment, such as bikes, the climbing frame and slide. The children enjoy skipping, bouncing on space hoppers and crawling through a tunnel. Younger children skilfully manoeuvre sit-and-ride toys around the garden. These experiences help children to develop physically, as they promote coordination and help children to gain control of their bodies.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents. The sample menu demonstrates the childminder's understanding of healthy eating. She provides children with a range of meals and snacks which are nutritious and contribute to children's physical growth and development. Children are beginning to make healthy choices and remain hydrated as they are able to independently access drinks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a homely environment in which the childminder places a high priority on safety. All potential hazards are identified and minimised. Risk of accidental injury is further minimised by the good supervision of the children and appropriate use of safety features. For example, safety gates and socket covers are all in place. The safe and secure environment provided is suitable for caring for children as they have space to move freely and are able to play in comfort. Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe as they are taught how to cross roads safely. Although there is a detailed emergency evacuation procedure in place, this has not been practised; consequently children are unaware of what to do in the case of a fire.

There is a range of resources and equipment available to meet the needs of children attending. Resources are organised and some are easily accessible to the children, which enhances their learning by promoting choice and independence. Resources are of a good quality, are well maintained and comply with safety regulations, minimising the risks to children.

The childminder has the required documentation and knowledge in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. She has a clear understanding of child protection procedures and of her responsibility with regards to keeping children safe. These are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's welfare is effectively promoted and their individual needs are met through the range of activities that include opportunities for social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. The relaxed atmosphere enables children to settle quickly. Children are happy and have a warm, caring, positive relationship with the childminder and other children. Children have support and attention from the childminder, which increases their sense of security and belonging, and trusting relationships are formed.

The childminder provides a good range of activities for children, which are stimulating and appropriate to their age and stage of development. She extends their play to promote their learning, for example, as the children help to peg out the washing, the childminder introduces colour recognition and mathematical language into the activity. She spends time interacting with children who are engaged and interested. Young children's hand to eye coordination and self-help skills are promoted; as they play at 'tea parties' they carefully pour water and juice from the teapot into teacups.

The childminder provides space for children to choose their own activities. They are able to access some of the resources easily, promoting their choice and independence. The children play imaginatively; as they dress up with tea towels round their shoulders they are transformed into a superhero. The children describe how they enjoy music sessions with the childminder; they play musical instruments and sing, expressing themselves creatively. However, children have limited access to craft materials which impinges their creativity.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder speaks very positively to children, using encouragement effectively to support their efforts and foster their independence. The childminder demonstrates her understanding of positive behaviour management. She deals with minor altercations in a sensitive and calm manner. Good behaviour is acknowledged and praised appropriately. As a result, the children are confident and are developing a positive self-esteem. Older children are learning to act in a responsible manner. For example, they help the younger children with play activities and to access drinks.

The children gain awareness of the diversity of the wider world through a selection of resources which reflect positive images. The childminder respects children as individuals and recognises their differences. Through discussion she demonstrates how she promotes children's individuality by encouraging them to listen to each other and respect other's opinions. Consequently, children are becoming aware of differences and developing a positive attitude to others.

Children benefit from the positive relationships that the childminder has established with their parents, as their individual needs are consistently recognised and met. The childminder has developed a range of policies which outline the service she provides. Informal discussions keep the childminder up to date with the children's routines and any changes that may have occurred, ensuring that children are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit as the childminder is proactive in developing her professional practice. She has attended additional training since her last inspection. First aid training is kept up to date, to enable the childminder to administer treatment if necessary. The childminder has a sound understanding of the regulations and meets the requirements, as outlined in the National Standards for Childminding. Most records and documentation are in order, which contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the children. However, not all parents have been asked to give consent for emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder cares for children within the required adult to child ratios, which ensures that they are safe and she is able to support their play and learning.

Children are settled and happy in the care of the childminder. They are welcomed into a warm and homely environment. Children benefit from the caring attention of the childminder. Space is suitably organised and used appropriately for the children's activities. The childminder plans a sufficient range of activities to interest the children and they make sound progress in their 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 the childminder was asked to ensure the lounge fire, thorny plants and drain cover were made safe. She also agreed to develop her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, ensure all adults in the home had appropriate clearances, and to provide activities and resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

All the recommendations have been addressed. The thorny plants and the lounge fire have been removed. The drain cover has been made inaccessible to children. The childminder has attended training to improve her knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. All adults in the home have the appropriate clearances required by Ofsted. These improvements have enhanced children's overall safety and well-being. The childminder has purchased resources which reflect our diverse society which help to promote children's awareness of difference and understanding of the world around them.

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 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):

- develop children's awareness of the emergency evacuation procedures
- provide more opportunities for children to have access to craft materials
- request written consent from all parents to seek emergency medical advice or 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