

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	504160
Inspection date	06 August 2007
Inspector	Carla Owen
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 1999. She lives with her husband and two daughters, aged 14 and 23 years in the Lower Kersal area of Salford. The lounge and kitchen on the ground floor and the bathroom and toilet on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. In addition an enclosed rear garden is used for outdoor play.

There may be a maximum of three children on the premises at any one time. There are three children on the register. Children attend for a variety of full and part time sessions. The childminder is able to support children with learning difficulties and disabilities and those with English as an additional language.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She receives support from Salford Surestart.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder follows sound health and hygiene routines to protect children from cross infection. For example, the home is well maintained and kept clean at all times and surfaces are wiped down throughout the day as and when required. Children are learning basic hygiene routines as they are reminded to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet. An effective sick child policy is in place to minimise the risk of cross infection. Children who are ill are excluded from the setting and parents are contacted immediately if children should become unwell whilst in the childminder's care. A basic nappy changing routine is in place, however, this is not effective enough to reduce the risk of cross infection.

Children learn to appreciate their local environment and benefit from fresh air as they go on regular walks to the local parks. They enjoy their days out on the train to various places including Blackpool and Southport. Children develop coordination and gain control of their bodies as they play on wheeled toys, slides, swings and climbing equipment.

Children have their dietary needs met as the childminder obtains information from children when they first start. Meals are mainly provided by parents. Drinking water is made accessible to the children throughout the day to ensure they keep hydrated and refreshed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into a secure and friendly environment. Rooms are well lit and maintained at an adequate temperature to ensure children's comfort whilst they play. Children develop their independence and are able to make choices in their play as toys and resources are stored at the children's height for ease of access. Space is organised well to allow children to move around their immediate environment with ease and confidence.

The childminder has a sound awareness of safety within the home. Some steps have been taken to minimise any potential hazards, such as storing knives and hazardous substances out of children's reach. However, some potential risks were identified during inspection; the electric and gas meter is within children's reach. In the outdoor area drains are not fully covered and ivy is accessible to the children. A fire evacuation procedure is in place but is not regularly practiced with the children. This prevents children from gaining a secure understanding of how to evacuate the premises in the event of an emergency.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a sound understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure and happy in the childminder's care. They have a good relationship with the childminder who greets them with lots of smiles and cuddles. She has a sound working knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, which she uses to informally monitor the children's development. The childminder has an awareness of where the children are in terms

of their development. For example, she understands that young babies need support in their body movement and therefore offers support for them whilst they attempt to walk.

Children develop their language skills as the childminder reads to them, sings songs and encourages mark making using a variety of materials. They develop number skills through counting objects around the home and counting money during role play activities. Sorting and matching activities along with singing number songs also helps to promote children's mathematical development. Children use their imagination as they dress up in different costumes and play with small world toys. Creativity is well promoted within the childminder's home. Each child has their own individual craft box filled with a variety of resources which helps them to express themselves in a variety of ways.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcomed into an inclusive environment. The childminder welcomes all children and their families. Children are gaining an awareness of cultural diversity as they access a variety of resources that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. Children are encouraged to be kind and respectful to each other and any anti-discriminatory remarks are dealt with appropriately. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards the care of children with learning difficulties or disabilities. She understands the importance of working closely with families and seeking advice from outside agencies to ensure children's needs are met.

Children are very well behaved. The childminder uses age-appropriate strategies to manage behaviour. For example, distraction techniques are used for younger children and explanations are provided for older children. Positive behaviour is fostered through the use of praise and encouragement. This encourages children to play harmoniously together.

Children benefit from the trusting three way relationships that the childminder has established with children and parents. Parents are kept well informed on their children's care through informal chats at the beginning and end of each day. The childminder currently also creates a photo album for each child which allows parents to see what their children have been up to during their time with the childminder. Letters from parents indicate that they are very happy with the care on offer and use words, such as 'professional' and 'caring' to describe the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children express themselves freely in the childminder's home. They are well supervised, which enables them to play and learn safely. The childminder cares for a small number of children and organises her time well to ensure they all receive equal amounts of support and attention. Space is organised well to allow children to move around freely and make choices in their play.

Most of the required documentation is up to date and stored to respect confidentiality. However, the accident and incident book along with the children's medication records were unavailable during inspection. This is a breach of regulations.

The childminder has a clear commitment to improving her practice. She has attended a number of training courses to develop her knowledge of childcare and is currently working towards a quality assurance scheme within her local authority.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

During the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that all records containing children's information are clearly recorded and provide parents with the contact details for Ofsted. These recommendations have now been met. The childminder has created a clearer registration form to record children's information and Ofsted's contact number is available to parents within the complaints log.

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):

- ensure the outdoor area does not pose any potential risks to children and ensure the fire evacuation procedure is practised regularly
- ensure all necessary documentation is available at inspection
- review nappy changing routine to further reduce the risk of cross infection
- ensure the electric and gas meters are kept out of children's reach.

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