

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 505021
Inspection date 05 July 2007
Inspector Carol Ann Dixon

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 minding for over 20 years. She lives with her husband in the Royton area of Oldham. The childminder is registered to provide care for six children and currently has five under eight-year-olds attending. The whole of the ground floor of the property and the first floor bathroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outdoor play.

Children may be taken to and from school and on outings to the local park, shops and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean home. The childminder implements effective hygiene procedures and routines. Children are learning about cleanliness and personal care through practice and discussion. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. This is helping them develop good hygiene practices and learn how to look after their bodies.

Children have daily opportunities for physical play in the garden or through walks and visits to local parks. They love to go out, even on rainy days, when they put their Wellingtons on and splash in the puddles. This is providing them with plenty of fresh air and exercise and reinforces the benefits of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet that includes fresh fruit and vegetables. Dietary requirements are agreed with parents and children's preferences well catered for. They receive food and drinks in sufficient quantities to meet their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a generally safe and well maintained home. Potential dangers have been identified and effective safety precautions put in place to minimise them. Regularly practised fire drills ensure that children are proficient in evacuation procedures in case of an emergency. Children are able to participate freely and independently in a range of play activities. Consistent boundaries ensure children have a balance between having freedom and safe limits.

Children are supervised at all times. They are learning to accept responsibility for their own safety as they become aware of road safety when away from the setting. Children are well cared for in the case of an accident as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and comprehensive first aid kit.

The childminder recognises her responsibility to protect children from harm and has a satisfactory knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures she should follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy the company of the childminder who has developed warm, caring relationships with them. Children have fun and enjoy their time at the setting as the childminder has a sound understanding of the children and of their stage of development. They are happy and settled as the childminder supports their play well, provides close supervision and praises their efforts.

Children are beginning to express their feelings and develop their ideas as they engage in imaginative play with small construction equipment and toy telephones. The childminder helps the children to carefully manipulate the jigsaw pieces until they fit together and they have lots of fun singing and dancing to music. The childminder spends time with the children and supports their developing language and communication skills as they enjoy stories from their favourite books. However, children have limited opportunities to experience natural materials and sensory play opportunities.

Children learn to appreciate their local environment and benefit from fresh air as they visit the local park and toddler group. Children develop their large muscle skills and coordination as they use the play tunnels, slides and bikes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to an appropriate range of books and imaginative toys that provide positive images, which are helping them to understand and value differing lifestyles. All children are valued and their individual needs are effectively met by the childminder.

Children are developing a good sense of belonging and knowledge of their local community. They look forward to attending toddler groups and trips to local parks. This provides them with a range of interesting and enjoyable learning experiences. Children are responsive to the meaningful praise that they receive from the childminder. They are finding out about the boundaries that are in place and behave well.

Children benefit from the good relationships that the childminder develops with parents. The childminder obtains information which enables her to meet children's individual needs and develop consistency of care. The care of children is enhanced through the daily verbal exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the friendly and well organised home. The environment is designed to provide a variety of learning opportunities which are easily accessible. This promotes children's confidence so they eagerly explore their surroundings and initiate their own play.

Children enjoy receiving lots of encouragement and attention from the childminder. Their care is agreed with parents through regular discussions and written contracts. However, there are some omissions relating to parental consent for outings and permission to seek emergency medical treatment for children.

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 improve the provision of resources which reflect wider society and equality of opportunity. She has extended her resources to reflect our diverse society which has increased children's understanding of individual differences.

The childminder also agreed to review the contents of her first aid box. This has been replenished thereby promoting children's safety in the event of any required first aid administration.

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):

- improve the range of sensory play opportunities for children under three in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- seek permission from parents for emergency medical treatment and consent for outings.

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