

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY342717
Inspection date	21 September 2007
Inspector	Janice Shaw
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 2006. She lives with her husband and adult daughter and two sons aged 16 and 10 years in the Cheadle Hulme area of Stockport. All the ground floor areas of the house and first floor bathroom will be used for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There is currently one child on roll. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding association and receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are comfortable and well cared for in the childminder's home, where good hygiene routines are in place to protect children and minimise the risks of cross infections. Toddlers are offered appropriate support and guidance as they learn to follow appropriate health and hygiene routines. The garden is out of bounds to children and this is substituted by walks, outings to parks and places of interest in the local area. A well structured routine ensures children rest,

eat and sleep according to their needs. They sleep safely in a travel cot and are frequently monitored by the childminder.

Drinks are accessible at all times and children are encouraged to drink fluids on a regular basis to quench their thirst. All children's emotional needs are well met by a warm welcome, cuddles and displays of genuine affection by the childminder. Parents are asked to provide a full range of consents which ensures the childminder is able to seek further medical advice if required.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well maintained home where the childminder gives safety issues high priority. Young children move freely between the different areas of the home here they are always within the childminder's supervision. They know where their belongings are kept and a toddler eagerly accesses her bag to get a banana out for snack time. The childminder's knowledge of the safeguarding issues is weak and she is not confident of the current procedures.

Children confidently select their own toys from a satisfactory range of resources which are easily accessible to them. The children are protected by suitable safety and security measures within the home. For example, external doors are kept locked to ensure good security and electrical sockets are made inaccessible to children. Furthermore, hazardous objects and substances are stored out of reach of children. A fire blanket is provided in the kitchen and smoke detectors are fitted on all levels of the house. Safety standards are maintained with all resources.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home where they enjoy playing with their favourite toys and experiencing new opportunities together. Young children have developed a sense of belonging in the home which allows them to move confidently from room to room. They enjoy a reasonable range of activities that are designed to stimulate their interest. Appropriate use is made of local amenities to extend their play and learning opportunities. When visiting a local toddler group children benefit from playing with a wider range of toys and learn to socialise with their peers. Children have some opportunities for imaginary play, where they copy and imitate the actions of adults. They willingly make cups of tea and a snack for the childminder and a visitor. A toddler happily lists the pretend food and offers 'sandwiches' for others to eat before pretending to consume it herself.

Children enjoy the company of their childminder because she spends time talking and playing with them. For example, she helps them with push button toys and she encourages them to look at pictures in the books. They actively seek her attention when they require support or comfort. Their communication skills are fostered as the childminder constantly talks to the children, and points things out which increases their vocabulary and extends their thinking. Children enjoy musical instruments, singing songs and listening to musical tapes. This range of activities helps to promote the use of their senses. For example a young child has fun playing with a toy drum, beating it repeatedly, showing great delight when it lights up.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well behaved and follow the childminder's calm, consistent approach. They are offered praise, reassuring smiles and encouragement to promote their confidence and self-esteem. Their awareness of the wider world is not sufficiently promoted through resources, discussions and activities. A satisfactory approach to inclusion was demonstrated.

The childminder understands the importance of working in partnership with parents which ensures children's needs are discussed and agreed at the time of placement. Definite steps are taken to keep them well informed about all relevant policies and procedures. Informal discussions at either end of the day plus a useful written record about their child's day effectively promote continuity of care for children and families.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and relaxed in the homely environment where the childminder organises her days to meet the needs of individual children. They enjoy opportunities to go on outings in the local area or happily play in the childminder's home. The childminder has not attended a first aid course and therefore, she does not have up to date knowledge on how to deal with accidents and injuries. This is a breach of regulations.

Most documentation is in place as required and the registration certificate is displayed for parents to view. Children's records are kept and shared with regard to confidentiality and they contain relevant detail and parental consents. However, the childminder is not yet fully secure in her knowledge of how to implement the complaints procedures in line with current regulation as the current record lacks clarity and cannot be easily shared with parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the 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 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 a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children, and which is consistent with any guidance issued to local authorities by the Secretary of State
- promote children's awareness of all aspects of equality of opportunity by the provision of resources, discussions and activities
- further develop knowledge of signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and ensure that all correct information and procedures is in place to safeguard children
- further develop knowledge and understanding of the regulation for complaints and ensure the complaints log contains appropriate detail.

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