

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY347422
Inspection date	11 July 2007
Inspector	Anne Drinkwater

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 good. 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 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged two and seven years in the Wythenshawe area of Manchester.

The whole of the ground floor and first floor bathroom is used for childminding and there is an enclosed rear garden for outside play. The childminder is registered for four children and currently has two children on roll. The childminder attends local toddler groups and takes children to the library.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is promoted because the childminder provides a clean and homely environment where children develop good independence with their personal care. For example, they know to wash their hands after using the toilet and children are provided with their own face cloths and encouraged to play with their toothbrush. Children are protected from cross-infection because the childminder ensures toys and resources are cleaned to a high

standard. There are good procedures in place for recording accidents and administering medication, which promotes children's good health.

Children are continually refreshed with drinks of fruit juice and bottled water, which are available at all times. They learn the importance of healthy eating because they are provided with homemade healthy meals and fruits which they thoroughly enjoy. This is complemented with a healthy menu displayed for parents to see.

Children enjoy the benefits of fresh air and exercise. They have regular trips to the park and toddler groups, which contributes to their good health. Children enjoy activities which promote their physical well-being, for example, music and movement tapes, the bouncy castle and trampoline to strengthen leg muscles.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a home which is well-maintained and appropriate in temperature. The childminder effectively organises rooms to meet children's individual needs, for example, stories and quiet play in the lounge and creative activities are provided in the kitchen. Children have access to a good range of toys and resources, which are well maintained and regularly checked to ensure they meet the required safety standard. Toys are easily accessible which positively promotes children's independence. The toys are rotated on a regular basis to ensure children are continually stimulated.

Children's risk of injury is minimised because the childminder has a good awareness of safety. She offers good supervision, and appropriate safety measures are in place which keep children safe. Children are well supervised at all times and appropriate measures are in place when out on trips. The childminder has sought additional safety advice from the local fire officer, however, children have not had the opportunity to participate in fire drills. The childminder has relevant documentation in place, such as emergency contact numbers, and effective systems are implemented for safe collection of children.

Children's welfare is assured because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She is knowledgeable of the signs and symptoms of abuse which ensures the safety and well-being of all children in her care. She has written procedures which she informs parents of, however, these are not in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are extremely settled and enjoy all aspects of their play and learning because the childminder plans a range of stimulating activities and free play, which offer a balanced day. Children mix with other children through regular attendance at the local toddler groups. The childminder sings with confidence and selects props, such as the emotions doll from the story bag. The childminder has an awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and has recently introduced some new resources, such as a treasure basket, and fruits including limes and lemons to develop their senses. Consequently, children are able to explore and investigate natural materials with interest.

Children can easily access toys and resources which are stored at their level to successfully promote their growing independence and help them make choices. This includes quiet times in the day with their favourite story book. Children enjoy the interaction from the childminder and are fully involved in a wide range of activities, which they thoroughly enjoy. This widens their play opportunities which means they spend their time purposefully.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are warmly welcomed into the home and are treated with equal regard, which increases their sense of belonging. Their individual needs are well met because the childminder uses detailed registration discussions and agreements to find out about children's individual requirements. For example, she records their likes and dislikes, and special consideration is given to any particular medical needs. Children become aware of the wider society through access to good resources that promote positive images, such as books and figures which are used effectively to promote their awareness of others. They have opportunities to celebrate different festivals and cultures as the childminder actively promotes this with the use of her festival pack.

Children's self-esteem and confidence are developed because the childminder shows interest in what they say and do. She offers lots of praise and encouragement, sits at their level, and is attentive to their needs. As a result, children are extremely happy and settled. The childminder ensures relevant information is obtained from parents and used to meet the needs of children. Children's well-being is enhanced as there are good systems in place for the regular exchange of information between the childminder and parents. For example, information is shared verbally and complemented with written information recorded in a daily journal. A written complaints procedure is in place and parents' comments are actively encouraged, which promotes continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder cares for children in required ratios, which ensures they make progress in all areas of their development. They benefit from effective support and feel at home in the welcoming environment. Children freely explore their environment and make choices about their play. As a result, they are happy, content and are beginning to initiate their own play and learning.

The childminder has some very good written policies and procedures in place which are shared with parents and relevant consents are obtained to meet the care needs of all children. She has all required documents in place which are in line with the requirements of the National Standards. For example, an attendance register clearly shows the times of arrival and departure of children, which promotes their well-being. Children's confidentiality is maintained as their records are stored in a secure manner. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

N/A.

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 good. 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 child protection procedures are in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures
- ensure children have the opportunity to practise fire evacuation procedures.

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