

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311947
Inspection date	31 July 2007
Inspector	Judith Anne Kerr
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 2000. She lives with her husband and three children aged 15, 13 and 10 in the Hyde area of Tameside. Minded children have access to the whole of the ground floor except the rear lounge. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the premises for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for a total of five children on a variety of placements. The childminder walks to the local school to collect children. The childminder attends the local adult and toddler group. The family have a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean home where they learn about good hygiene habits, such as washing their hands before meals and after using the toilet. The childminder implements beneficial hygiene procedures, such as wiping down surfaces on a regular basis. This minimises

the risks to children of cross infection. Children's health needs are protected with accurate records and the childminder's up to date knowledge. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has the necessary written parental consents to administer medication and seek emergency medical treatment. This means that she can give appropriate care if there is an accident.

Children enjoy a broad range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have the opportunity to develop control of their bodies. For example, young babies who are unable to crawl are encouraged to reach for toys and older children enjoy exercise including skipping, chasing and jumping. A good selection of outdoor equipment enables children to develop further skills as they enjoy the swing, climbing frame, scooter and bikes. Such activities help all children to develop coordination and balance and promotes their physical development.

Children benefit from the childminder's clear understanding of a healthy diet. They are beginning to understand the importance of making healthy choices, such as fruit and vegetables to support their physical well-being and development. Children's individual dietary needs are recorded and respected at all times. This ensures their individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a well maintained home where the childminder gives a generally high priority to safety. The childminder has taken most steps to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, such as covering electrical sockets, fitting smoke alarms and practising the emergency evacuation procedure. However, alcohol in the kitchen and ivy in a pot in the garden are accessible. As a result, children may be exposed to risks. Children are beginning to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains boundaries. For example, she ensures the children understand the importance of following her instructions when crossing roads. They only step out where the crocodile feet painted on the path indicate and she says it is safe to do so.

Toys and resources are plentiful, varied, suitable and easily accessible. This allows children to make choices and develop their independence. The childminder carefully supervises children's choices of toys to ensure they are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a clear knowledge and understanding of child protection matters and knows whom to contact in the event she has concerns about a child. This ensures children are protected from harm and abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy good relationships with the childminder. She dedicates her time playing and talking to the children. The childminder is consistent, calm and kind in her approach towards them and offers lots of positive physical contact, such as hugs and cuddles. As a result, they are settled and happy in the friendly atmosphere created in her home. Young children benefit from familiar routines for sleep and feeding which are consistent with their experiences at home.

The children are provided with a stimulating range of age appropriate activities, such as successfully making a den in the garden. The childminder makes good use of local amenities

to widen children's experiences. For example, she takes the children to feed the ducks on the canal, they explore in the long grass at the side of the path along the river and enjoy trips to the library. Children are able to socialise with other children when they visit the local toddler group. These activities increase their awareness of the world around them, provide opportunities to access different play resources and environments and helps them to become confident.

Children make good progress as the childminder introduces activities to build on and extend their learning. The childminder encourages children's early communication skills. She repeats the sounds the baby makes, introduces new words and sings songs, such as 'the wheels on the bus' and 'twinkle, twinkle'. As a result, early speech patterns are reinforced. Children have opportunities to learn new skills. For example, they make decorated cakes for their mum on her birthday and bird feeders. They count and sort the cars to encourage mathematical concepts.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides resources, such as books, jigsaws, play figures and dolls which reflect diversity and give the children opportunities to learn about the wider community. All children are valued and encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards others. For example, the children celebrate Chinese New Year by making dragons and eating food, such as noodles and prawn crackers. The childminder shows due regard towards children with disabilities.

Expectations for children's behaviour are stated in a gentle and positive way. All children quickly acquire confidence and self respect and are aware of right and wrong. Their behaviour is good, they are happy and learning good manners, such as sitting together at the table for meals and snacks. The childminder offers the children lots of praise in order to encourage positive behaviour. Older children support younger children and applaud their achievements, such as knocking over the skittles.

Children benefit from the purposeful relationships the childminder has developed with parents. The progress of young babies is continually discussed to ensure consistency and continuity of care. Informal discussions each day keeps parents fully informed about the provision and their children's activities. All the required documentation is maintained relating to individual children. Parents are informed of how to make a complaint should the need arise.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's good organisation. They feel at home and at ease in a well arranged environment. There is lots of space to play in comfort with resources being organised to promote their independence. This encourages them to make their own choices about their play and learning.

The childminder is committed to improving the high quality of care she provides for the children. All the mandatory training has been completed, adults with access to the children are suitable and ratios of adults to children are met at all times. This helps to keep children safe.

The required documentation is in place and for the most part appropriately completed. It is well organised with confidentiality being respected. This promotes continuity of care for the children and contributes to their health and well-being. The certificate of registration is clearly displayed for parents to see.

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 agreed to improve the resources which reflect positive images of wider society. A range of resources reflecting disability, culture, gender and race are provided for the children. This helps to improve their understanding of the world in which they live.

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 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):

- minimise hazards to children from alcohol in the kitchen and ivy in the garden
- ensure medication records are consistently signed by parents to acknowledge the entry.

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