

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311917
Inspection date	24 October 2007
Inspector	Kay Margaret Armstrong
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 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged 17 and 14 years. The family have a pet rabbit and live in the Hollingworth, area of Tameside. Both shops and parks are within walking distance of the childminder's home. All of the ground floor rooms are used for childminding purposes. There is an enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children. Currently there are 13 children on roll, all who attend on a part time basis.

The childminder gains support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows appropriate hygiene procedures, to ensure that they are cared for in a warm and clean home. Daily routines, such as washing their

hands before meals and after using the toilet, is beginning to promote children's understanding of good hygiene practices and minimises the risk of cross-infection.

Children enjoy a range of activities that contribute to their physical growth and development. They walk to and from school daily which ensures they get plenty of fresh air and exercise and they regularly play in the garden. Visits to the park, provide the opportunities for children to run around and use the large equipment, such as climbing frames, swings and slides. The children enjoy dancing and moving their bodies in time to music. These experiences help children to develop physical strength and coordination. The childminder encourages and supports the babies' physical development, by providing opportunities for them to practise skills, such as sitting up unaided or crawling.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of children's dietary requirements. She provides children with a range of meals and snacks, which are nutritious and contribute to their physical growth and development. Children remain hydrated, as they are able to access drinks freely.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Risks of accidental injury to children are minimised, because the childminder makes good use of safety equipment, such as fireguards, safety gates and appropriate cupboard locks. As a result children are able to play freely and safely. The childminder is vigilant and has a good recognition of the need for a balance between safe limits and freedom. Children are beginning to learn about some aspects of managing their own safety, for example, when out walking they practise crossing the road safely. There is an emergency escape plan in place, however, this has not been practised with children and therefore they are not aware of what to do in the event of a fire.

Children use a range of resources, which are appropriate to their age and stage of development. Babies have access to toys which are colourful and have pulsating lights. However, all the baby toys are manufactured and they have no experience of exploring natural materials, which limits their sensory development. Toys are clean, well maintained and comply with safety standards, minimising risks to children. Resources are organised and easily accessible to the children, which enhances their learning and promotes choice and independence.

The childminder has the required documentation and knowledge in place, to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. Through discussion, the childminder clearly demonstrates her understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board's procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The relaxed atmosphere and the warm relationships, which are established, enable babies and children to settle quickly. Babies and children are well nurtured and have clearly formed positive attachments to the childminder. They look to her for comfort and reassurance, which they are given through cuddles and soothing, gentle words. This promotes their trust and helps them to develop a strong sense of self, which contributes to babies' and children's well-being and sense of security. The childminder has some understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework which she is beginning to incorporate into her interactions with the children.

The childminder provides a range of activities for children. She spends time interacting with children who are engaged and interested. Babies' and children's understanding, language and vocabulary are extended as the childminder talks to them as they play, echoing their early speech patterns and fostering their communication skills. The childminder provides space for children to choose their own activities. They are able to access the resources easily, promoting their choice and independence. For example, children help themselves to pans from the playroom and enjoy the sound the pans make when they are banged together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a clear understanding of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory play. There are some resources available reflecting positive images of our diverse society. Consequently, children are becoming aware of difference and the world around them.

The childminder speaks positively to children, using encouragement effectively, to support their efforts and foster their independence. Good behaviour is acknowledged and praised appropriately. As a result, the children are becoming confident and are beginning to develop a positive self-esteem. Through discussion the childminder describes how she supports children to understand and maintain simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. Consequently, the children behave well and are developing respect for others.

The childminder works closely with parents, sharing information on a daily basis to ensure children's individual needs are recognised and their welfare is promoted. Children's home routines are followed with regard to meal and sleep patterns, providing a secure and familiar environment; this promotes a sense of belonging and helps to develop trust.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are settled and happy in the care of the childminder. They are welcomed into a warm and homely environment. Children benefit from the caring attention of the childminder. Routines which are familiar and consistent with children's life at home ensure that they feel secure. Space is suitably organised and used appropriately for the children's activities. The childminder plans a sufficient range of activities to interest the children and they make sound progress in their development.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the regulations, as outlined in the National Standards for Childminding. However, she is in breach of a requirement of registration, as she has not ensured all the adults in the home have the appropriate references. Records and documentation are appropriately maintained, which contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the children. The childminder cares for children within the required adult to child ratios, which ensures that they are safe and she is able to support their play and learning. 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 develop resources which reflect positive images of disability and to make the hearth safe. The childminder now has some books in place which have positive images of people who have physical disabilities, which increases children's awareness of difference. The hearth is protected by cushions making this safe for children.

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 children know what to do in the event of an emergency
- develop a range of natural resources
- ensure appropriate references are completed for all members of the household over 16 years old.

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