

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312157
Inspection date	14 December 2007
Inspector	Barbara Law
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 1981. She lives with her husband who works with her as an assistant. They run their business from their home in the Droylsden area of Tameside. The whole of the ground floor of the property is used for childminding activities. The toilet and bathroom facilities are upstairs. There is a secure back garden available for outdoor play. As part of her service she uses local amenities, such as the recreational park, shops and other places of interest. The registration is for six children, currently there are four children on roll. This registration does not include overnight care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are provided with healthy, balanced and freshly prepared wholesome homemade meals, for example, potato pie and cabbage, which ensures they are well nourished. Snacks include plenty of fresh fruits, such as apples and bananas, bread sticks, crackers and occasionally crisps and biscuits, which they really enjoy. Drinks of milk, water and diluted juice are freely available and frequently offered in familiar beakers.

Young children benefit positively from consistent routines for sleeping, which are discussed and agreed with their parents. They develop a range of physical skills as they freely access bikes, scooters and many other toys and activities in the garden. Children are taken outdoors everyday for walks to the local recreational park and other places of interest. They are able to run, jump, swing, skip and slide, and have fun developing their physical skills whilst enjoying healthy exercise and the benefits of fresh air.

Children are effectively protected from some risk of infection and helped to maintain good health because the childminder is meticulous in her cleaning procedures. For example, she follows her own cleaning routine and ensures she thoroughly cleans equipment, such as toys, high chairs and changing areas, with antibacterial solutions. However, she does not wear protective clothing when nappy changing. Children are actively encouraged by the childminder to wash their hands at appropriate times. Children are cared for in a clean and homely environment. They are beginning to understand good, simple hygiene practices, such as hand washing before meals and after going to the toilet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is warm and very welcoming and is clearly planned with children and their families in mind. A wide variety of appropriate, safe toys are attractively and invitingly presented at floor level, which encourages children to help themselves and make choices in their play.

Many safety features are in place to protect children, such as smoke detectors and electric socket covers, and the childminder further considers children's safety as she carries out risk assessments of the premises and equipment. The childminder ensures children develop a good understanding and awareness of how to keep themselves safe during her discussions with them. For example, they talk about dangers of traffic when out walking, to learn about responsible road safety behaviour and the potential hazards.

Children are well protected. The childminder has a very clear understanding of her responsibilities to keep children safe and the children's welfare is paramount. She is aware of the procedures to follow should she have any concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in a very welcoming environment. A range of very good quality toys and resources are freely available to the children, such as books, imaginative play, construction, cars and mat, garage and play dough. Resources are very easily accessible to the children. This enables them to develop their independence and make decisions about their play.

Children are given lots of individual attention and are well stimulated by eye contact, conversation, questions, cuddles and kisses. They show excellent levels of concentration in their play and listen attentively at story time. The childminder gives children lots of praise and encouragement, for example, when they identify colours of the cars or build with the construction blocks. This increases their knowledge, confidence and self-esteem. Their play is significantly enhanced as the childminder ensures that their play can develop spontaneously with the provision of imaginative resources.

Children make very positive relationships with the childminder and each other. They play very well together and cooperate well in their activities.

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 favourite toys are readily available and children are totally assured as they are provided with lots of smiles, cuddles and kind words from the childminder. As a result, children are happy and settled. Children are encouraged to participate in all activities regardless of their gender, which promotes equality. They gain a good understanding of the wider world because they have free access to a range of resources which reflect positive images of gender, race, religion and culture.

Children behave well because the childminder gives lots of praise and encouragement, which increases their self confidence. Their behaviour is managed effectively by the childminder as she understands stages of development. Consequently, children respond well to the consistent strategies which are appropriate to their age and understanding.

Children's individual needs are met well by the childminder due to the good relationships she has established with parents. There are good systems in place for the regular exchange of information and parents are regularly updated on the children's activities and achievements. This keeps parents fully informed of their child's day and progress and promotes continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

There is ample space in the home and the play resources and activities are organised in a manner which helps to promote children's free choice and ensure their comfort. As a result, children are settled and are able to initiate their own play as they freely select toys of their own choosing.

The childminder has documentation in place which is in line with the requirements of the National Standards. This promotes children's care, safety and well-being. However, the medication and accident records are not kept in a confidential manner.

Children benefit because the childminder has a positive attitude to developing her knowledge and skills and has attended all required training. For example, she has a valid first aid certificate and intends to access further training to enhance the childcare provided. She has completed training to safeguard children. Children are well protected from harm by the childminder's vigilance and supervision.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

To protect and maintain children's care and well being, records are kept in the main, in good order, however, some are not kept in a confidential manner.

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of the wider world because they have free access to a good range of resources which reflect positive images of gender, race, religion and culture. For example, dolls, jigsaws and books.

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):

- take positive steps to prevent the spread of infection, for example, by wearing protective clothing when changing nappies
- ensure accident and medication records are kept in a confidential manner.

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