

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312193
Inspection date	17 December 2007
Inspector	Shirley Leigh Monks-Meagher
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 has been registered since December 2000. She lives, in a three bedroom house in the Mossley area of Tameside. She shares her home with her husband, adult son and eight year old daughter. The family has a dog.

The ground floor of the property, lounge and dining kitchen, are used for child minding activities. Bathroom/toilet facilities are upstairs. There is a secure back garden available for outdoor play.

As part of her service she walks children to and from the local schools and uses local amenities such as the park to walk and play and the library.

The registration is for six children. There are currently seven children on roll, including two over eight years. Some children attend on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home which is maintained to a good standard of cleanliness. As a result, the risk of cross-infection is minimised. A clear sick child policy ensures the best interests of children are taken into account to help prevent the spread of infection. They learn good personal hygiene. Young children understand when to wash their hands and do so independently. The childminder maintains clear documentation relating to consent and the administration of medication, thus safeguarding children's welfare.

Children benefit from a range of nutritious foods to promote their growth and development. Meals are well balanced to meet dietary requirements. The childminder prepares homemade meals, for example, meat and potato pie with carrots. She consults parents about children's individual needs and respects their wishes, which ensures children remain healthy. Children sit and eat together at the table, whilst babies' highchairs are close by. This makes eating a social occasion for children. Drinks, including water, are readily available for older children and babies are regularly offered them throughout the day to keep refreshed and hydrated.

Children are taken out in the fresh air each day and the childminder's garden provides good opportunities for children to develop their coordination and muscular strength. Babies have sufficient space to roll and crawl and there is safe furniture for them to pull themselves up. Toys are set out to encourage babies to crawl, explore and choose their own toys from the tubs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a bright and welcoming environment. This helps them to feel secure and settle quickly. They play in safety and comfort. The childminder uses her space well, children have opportunities to engage in a variety of activities. Toys and equipment are well maintained, meet the needs of the children and promote their overall development.

Children are safe and secure. The childminder maintains safety indoors because she identifies risks. She carries out risk assessments and visual checks. There are safety gates in place to prevent children's access to the stairs. Socket covers are in place and the premises are kept secure. Smoke alarms are fitted on all floors and there is a clear evacuation procedure to ensure children are kept safe. Accident records are comprehensive and accurately maintained. Children are learning to keep themselves safe because the childminder offers clear explanations regarding the consequences of their actions. For example, they are becoming aware of why not to climb on chairs and know how to behave safely on the roads.

The childminder's knowledge of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures promotes children's welfare and safety. She clearly understands her responsibilities with regard to keeping children safe from harm and neglect. She has all the required procedures and documents in place, and shares her role and responsibilities with parents. As a result, children's welfare is fully safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy in the childminder's care. They feel secure because the childminder creates a relaxed atmosphere and establishes good relationships with them. Hugs, and cuddles are freely shared. She spends her time playing and talking with them to support their efforts and achievements. Children experience a good range of developmentally appropriate activities, which promote their learning. For example, They enjoy baking cakes, being hairdressers and are particularly interested in drawing observational pictures and writing their names. They enjoy stories, singing rhymes and painting their faces and are able to solve simple problems for themselves, such as fitting different size lids back onto the face paints when they have finished with them. Children benefit from opportunities to play and mix with other adults and children at nursery sessions or toddler groups. This helps them to become sociable and broadens their learning experiences.

Babies are confident and curious as they explore colourful toys around them. Different sounds captivate their interests as they enjoy tapping and shaking objects, particularly wooden clothes pegs. However, the childminder has yet to fully implement and extend sensory play with natural materials for the younger children, in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Children develop good communication skills at the childminder's house. She listens carefully to children and responds effectively to babies' facial expressions, gestures and babble. She echoes their sounds, helping them develop an early understanding of speech patterns, and consistently chats to children, discussing what they are doing and helping them to express themselves.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern and the childminder divides her attention well between the minded children. As a consequence, children soon settle and feel at ease in their surroundings with frequent cuddles and reassurance from the childminder. Children's own home routines are followed when they start with the childminder, with regard to sleeping and eating, which makes children feel secure. A good range of resources which promote our diverse society help children gain an understanding about the wider world.

A clear behaviour management statement is shared with parents. The childminder uses positive strategies to manage children's behaviour, such as distraction. She acknowledges the importance of praise and encouragement to foster children's self-esteem and confidence. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure a consistent approach and to help children know what is expected.

The childminder works effectively with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met. Time is spent chatting together to develop friendly relationships and to enable relevant information to be shared. Written policies and procedures are shared so parents are fully aware of, and in agreement with, care practices. This provides consistency and continuity of care for children. Parents are provided with procedures to follow in the event of a complaint.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children benefit from sufficient indoor and outdoor space so they can move around freely. The childminder organises the layout of her furniture well so babies and children can explore their

surroundings and access toys with ease. The day is well-planned for children's enjoyment with consistent routines to ensure their well-being. There is a good balance of activities, both in the childminder's home and within the community, to stimulate children's interests and make their day fun.

The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment to her ongoing professional development in order to provide a good standard of care for children. She holds a valid first aid certificate to enable her to respond appropriately to children's health needs in the event of an accident.

The childminder is organised and has a professional approach to her childminding business. She has good policies, which are shared with parents and form an effective plan, to ensure children are well cared for and her business runs smoothly. All relevant documentation and records are in place, and are well maintained to ensure the safety and welfare of children. Records are kept secure to maintain confidentiality. 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 accuracy of the daily register and ensure children's emergency contact details were recorded.

The childminder keeps accurate records of children's daily attendance. These include children's actual arrival and departure times. Children's emergency contact details are included on the agreements drawn up with parents. As a result children's welfare is better protected.

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):

- further develop sensory activities and experiences for younger children in line with recognised guidance, such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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