

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312231
Inspection date	07 February 2008
Inspector	Angela Cuffe
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 1992. She lives with her husband and two sons aged 21 and 22 in Denton, Manchester. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five on a part time basis and eight over five before and after school on alternate days. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group. The family has a cat and a rabbit.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder cares for the children in a warm and clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after handling the rabbit and after using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination.

The childminder understands the issues surrounding the safe storage and administration of medication, however, written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment has not been sought and has a negative impact on the care and well-being of the children.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities, which contribute to their good health. Each day there are outdoor activities to help develop the control of their bodies, for example, as they ride on bikes or dig in the sand or dirt. Garden games and regular visits to the local park improve children's physical skills.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. They help themselves to drinking water and a range of juices throughout the day. The childminder takes account of parents wishes and the children's choices, for example, she provides home cooked nutritious meals and snacks that appeal to the children and meet their dietary needs. The childminder shares information with parents about the food provided in a weekly menu.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a well organised indoor and outdoor environment. There is a dedicated play room, which has displays, children's work and photographs on the walls. The childminder gives priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. Fire drills are practised on a regular basis and the childminder discusses road safety and stranger danger with the children whilst on outings. This helps to maintain children's safety both inside and outside the home, however, the radiators are set at a very high temperature which poses a risk to children.

Children independently select activities from an excellent range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder checks and cleans the toys on a regular basis to ensure safety and suitability is maintained. The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documents in place, for example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with The Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are engrossed in their activities and concentrate exceptionally well. They are eager and enthusiastic in their play and thoroughly enjoy the challenges set for them. Children have excellent relationships, playing cooperatively, constructively and imaginatively together. They confidently organise themselves in role play, choosing which familiar characters they want to be. Resources are very well planned and prepared to support children's play and learning, for

example, the childminder has some materials for the fans, dragons and mobiles they will be making to coincide with Chinese New Year. The children have created a large wall mural using twigs and leaves from the garden. The mural is a snowy day and there are also photographs of cars with ice patterns. This enables the children to look at the effects the weather has on every day objects in their living environment. The children are looking at different fruits in a current topic and today they will be looking at a pineapple. The children dissect the fruit, look at and feel the texture and taste it, they drink the juice and draw pictures of it. They also discuss the nutritional value of the fruit and the country it comes from.

The childminder skilfully interacts with the children to extend their interest and natural curiosity. She reads a story to the children. The children listen intently and join in with actions and movements of the characters. The childminder praises the children when they behave well or achieve a goal. The use of empathy dolls is evident in the childminder's routine. All the children are familiar with the dolls and treat them as other children including them in each activity as they play happily. The children are settled and comfortable in the childminder's care. One child finds a squeaky toy and laughs as it makes a loud noise when he squeezes it. He spots his reflection in the television and is amazed to see other people in the room reflected also. The childminder explains this to him and uses a mirror to show him how it works. Displays show different countries, cultures and languages. Children develop a sense of time as they consider days and dates on the calendar and experience the different seasons. The childminder uses her observations of the children to carefully plan for their further development and links to the 'Birth to three matters' framework when planning for the younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a meaningful range of resources and activities to promote a positive view of the wider world and increase children's awareness of diversity, for example, the children dress up in cultural costumes, they make things relating to various cultural traditions, read stories in books and taste food from around the world. Children visit shops, the library and local parks where they learn about their local community.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. The childminder understands their individual needs and meets them well. Children show care and concern for each other and play together harmoniously. They behave very well and show respect for each other. Children make themselves at home, confidently deciding what to do, helping themselves to drinks and independently visiting the toilet. They have time to relax as well as be active.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure consistency is maintained in the care of the children. Information is shared with the parents verbally on a daily basis. The childminder puts together a scrap book for each child to enable them to file and share their work with their parents. Parents provide positive feedback about the quality of the care their children receive in thank you cards and questionnaires.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are at home and at ease in the well organised environment. The childminder has good relationships with the children and organises her day to enable her to give them lots of support, encouragement and attention. The home routine is followed to help new children settle and

to ensure continuity of care. Children confidently explore their surroundings and choose what to play with from the easily accessible toys and activities.

Most of the required childminding records and documentation are in place, they are clear, well maintained and stored appropriately. The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of the National Standards and current legislation. She has a level 3 qualification in childcare and has attended numerous courses to enable her to provide good quality care. This enhances the continuity of care of the children. As a result children's safety, security and the childminder's partnership with parents is enhanced.

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 provider agreed to ensure the risk of cross infection is minimised with reference to children's blankets. The childminder now provides children with their own bedding which is washed each day.

This action has a positive impact on the care and well-being of the 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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment
- ensure safe temperature of radiators is maintained.

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