

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316057
Inspection date	21 January 2008
Inspector	Gillian Patricia Bishop

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 1990. She lives in the Norden area of Rochdale with her teenage son. The playroom and kitchen on the ground floor are used for childminding activities. First floor rooms are not used, with the exception of the bathroom. There is a safe and secure 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, all of whom are under the age of eight years. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and she attends local toddler groups.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's welfare is satisfactorily promoted by the childminder's clear policies and procedures for health. A written sick child policy ensures parents are well advised about the procedures to be followed in the event a child becomes unwell. Accident and medication records contain relevant details and the childminder ensures the first aid box is appropriately stocked and readily

available. The home is generally clean and tidy which helps to keep children safe and well. However, the carpet in the playroom has become stained and dirty due the winter weather as children enter the room directly from the garden. Young children are developing an understanding about personal hygiene as the childminder helps them to clean their hands with wet wipes before and after their meals.

Children are provided with a generally good range of foods which they enjoy during snack and lunch times. They are able to quench their thirst independently because the childminder ensures feeder cups for young children are constantly filled up throughout the day. Children who are able to, sit at the kitchen table for meals, which encourages them to feed themselves and use cutlery appropriately.

A well-structured daily routine ensures children rest, eat and sleep according to their needs. This ensures children who require a sleep are able to do so. Children benefit from regular opportunities to play outdoors in the fresh air when taking walks and visiting the park. The children also visit local play centres and toddler groups where they have the space to run freely and be more physically active. Children have access to a range of outdoor play equipment, such as bikes, scooters and ride along cars, which they are learning to push and ride and manoeuvre with their feet.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for in the warm and welcoming home. Space, inside and outside the home, is well organised to provide a child-friendly and interesting play environment for the children. Children are provided with a generally good selection of toys and equipment, some of which they can independently access because they are stored in low level boxes which they can reach. Children benefit from a comfy seating area which they use when looking at books and watching television. However, younger children are not provided with suitable seating such as a high chair, which prevents them from relaxing and sitting more comfortably during meal times.

Children are appropriately supervised by the childminder and they are generally well-protected by the routine safety checks which the childminder undertakes before children arrive. This ensures doors and gates remain secure, plug sockets are covered and hazardous substances are kept out of reach. However, the first floor banister has become loose which poses a potential risk to older children who use the stairs. The childminder has devised a clear emergency evacuation procedure which older children and parents are advised about and she ensures gas appliances and smoke alarms are routinely checked to ensure they remain in good working order.

The childminder demonstrates a reasonably sound understanding of safeguarding procedures and she has some appropriate guidance booklets to refer to in the event of a concern. However, it has been sometime since she attended formal child protection training which prevents her from being fully updated with information about Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (LSCB'S) She has contact numbers for supporting agencies but is unable to confirm if these are still in use.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content which ensures they enjoy their time with the childminder. They benefit from her sensitive support and attention as she spends lots of time talking and playing alongside them. This encourages young children to speak, listen and take an interest in what is happening around them. Children benefit from a balance of adult supported play and free play which ensures their educational needs are challenged and steadily nurtured. For example, children are well supported by the childminder as they explore various ways to climb on and off their push along toys. Children are continually smiling and giggling as a consequence of the praise and encouragement they receive.

Children move freely and confidently around the home as they move from one activity to another. They learn to play cooperatively and fairly which ensures they enjoy the time they spend with other children. For example, when sharing pens and toys. Children have opportunities to be creative and develop their imaginations when making pictures with glue and coloured pens. They use their natural senses to explore the sounds and bright colours of their musical toys and they sing nursery rhymes and action songs. However, activities have not yet been developed in line with the 'Birth to three' matters framework for young children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and secure in the childminder's care due to the positive relationships they have established with her. They enjoy her company and they often settle onto her lap when playing or reading stories. Children learn about the natural world when playing in the garden and during nature walks. They are developing an awareness of the wider world because the childminder provides them with toys and books which show positive images of other people and their lifestyles.

Children are learning to play harmoniously with others as they are reminded of the necessity to play nicely together. The childminder's calm approach ensures potential conflict issues are appropriately dealt with because children are encouraged to share and take turns. Young children receive positive messages about what is expected of them which helps them to understand right and wrong. For example, when one child is encouraged to return a toy taken from another. Children receive lots of praise and encouragement from the childminder which ensures they develop a willingness to be independent and try new things.

The childminder works closely with parents in order to identify children's individual needs. This effective partnership ensures a consistent approach where children with specific educational needs are cared for. The childminder has developed daily communication systems which ensure parents remain fully informed about their child's activities and welfare. Parental wishes are sought and respected to involve and include them in all childcare related decisions, for example, when planning suitable menus or trips. The childminder has a written complaints policy which encourages parents to share their concerns and she has a complaints record in line with regulations. However, she is not thoroughly secure with all aspects of the regulation at this time.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a sound understanding of the requirements of the National Standards which enables her to promote children's health, safety and enjoyment. For example, by ensuring vetting procedures are adhered to in line with regulations. The childminder demonstrates her willingness to develop her knowledge and skills because she has updated her first aid certificate and she has attended other childcare related training such as behaviour management and equal opportunities training.

All aspects of documentation are in place as required. Parents are provided with a full range of written policies and procedures which outline the childminders everyday practices and the registration certificate is displayed as required. Children's records are kept and shared with regard to confidentiality and they contain relevant detail and parental consents.

Children are well cared for by the childminder. They are well settled and confident in the childminder's home which ensures they feel able to seek her company and attention when required. For example, when they need a drink or cuddle. Children benefit from a flexible daily routine and they are well occupied with an appropriate balance of indoor and outdoor activities.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection three recommendations were made in relation to working in partnership with parents, equal opportunities and documentation. The childminder has developed her recording systems to include records for existing injuries and significant issues; copies of which are made available for parents to view and discuss. She has extended the range of toys and books available to children in order to raise their awareness of diversity and the wider world.

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 the carpet in the playroom is routinely cleaned and suitable for use
- ensure young children are provided with suitable seating to enable them to relax and sit more comfortably during meal times
- update knowledge of current child protection procedures in line with Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB'S) and ensure contact numbers for supporting agencies are still in use
- further develop knowledge and understanding of complaints regulation

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