

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 316094
Inspection date 08 January 2008
Inspector Jannet Mary Richards

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 for 11 years. She lives with her husband in the residential area of Alkington, Rochdale. Their home is within walking distance of local shops and schools.

Minded children have access to the lounge/dining room, conservatory, kitchen and one bedroom may be used for children to sleep. There is an enclosed garden to the rear of the house for outdoor play.

The childminder is currently caring for three children under five years of age.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder effectively promotes children's health by reducing the risk of the spread of infection. She keeps her home, toys and equipment clean and hygienic, for example, and washes her own and the children's hands regularly. The children are encouraged to become independent in respect of their own health needs, wiping their own noses and placing the tissue in the bin.

The childminder provides children with healthy snacks of fresh fruit. She encourages the children to drink plenty, prompting them periodically to ensure that they are well hydrated. Parents provide the main meals for children, which are stored appropriately until they are needed.

Children enjoy suitable opportunities for fresh air and exercise to promote their health. For example, they can play in the childminder's garden and are taken on outings locally to feed the ducks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is a suitably warm, welcoming and child friendly environment. Space is available for children to eat, sleep and play. The children can reach an appropriate range of toys and books. They are interested in the toys available, particularly the books and jigsaws, which they clearly enjoy. The children know where the toys belong, they can reach them easily, they select what they would like to play with and return the toys when they have finished playing with them. This enables them to choose what they would like to do and encourages their independence.

Children stay safe in the care of the childminder because she supervises them well. She teaches young children how to climb down the stairs safely, for example, and keeps a close watch on children sleeping. Safety measures in the home, such as safety gates and smoke alarms, ensure that hazards are minimised.

The childminder has a sound awareness of child protection procedures in order to safeguard the welfare of any children she may care for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well in the care of the childminder. They visit often before childminding commences, which allows them to gradually become familiar with the childminder and her home. Over time she gets to know individual children very well and is able to provide activities they enjoy. The relationships between the children and the childminder are good, and children are clearly confident and happy in her care. She encourages the children to show care and consideration for each other as they play, and to respect the toys and books they use in their play.

The children enjoy the time they spend with the childminder. She dedicates her time to playing and interacting with them to encourage their development and learning. They talk about the colours of the toys, for example, and count objects as they play. However, the children have limited opportunities to develop their exploration and learning by using paint, sand and other tactile materials at the present time.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children behave well in the care of the childminder. They respond well to her calm manner and clear instructions. She has a sound understanding of how to manage children's behaviour effectively and encourages the children to show care and consideration to each other. The

children can play with a suitable range of toys and books which have positive images of different people in society, to raise their awareness of differences.

The childminder develops good relationships with parents and carers who are made to feel welcome in her home. She discusses all issues relating to the care of the children with their parents and carers to ensure that their home routines are continued, helping the children to feel secure and settled. She has a suitable awareness and experience of caring for children with more complex needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her time effectively in order to dedicate her time to the care of the children. Her home, toys and books are organised appropriately to meet the needs of the children she cares for and ensure that they are safe and happy.

The childminder has cared for two children under one year for a short period of time within the previous twelve months. Although discussion with the childminder indicates that the children were cared for appropriately and their individual needs met, this is an offence. Ofsted is not taking any further action in relation to this.

The documentation relating to the care of the children is appropriately recorded and maintained, and supports the care of the children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

The childminder was asked to ensure that medication records were appropriately maintained at the time of the last inspection. The childminder has not been required to administer medication to the children she cares for, but demonstrates an understanding of appropriate recording procedures in the event of giving medication to children. This ensures that the documentation relating to the care of the children is appropriately recorded and supports the care arrangements.

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):

- develop the opportunities for young children to explore different materials, such as paint, water and sand

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