

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316146
Inspection date	12 March 2008
Inspector	Carla Owen
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 lives with her partner and 10-year-old son. They live in a three-bedroomed quasi semi-detached house situated in a quiet residential area of Alkington, Rochdale, which is within close proximity of shops, schools and parks.

Minded children have full use of the lounge and the dining area of the kitchen/dining room. They also have access to the upstairs bathroom, and the large back garden which is available for outside play.

The childminder currently has six children on roll who attend on a variety of placements.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a very clean and well maintained environment. Good procedures are followed to ensure children are protected from the risk of cross infection. For example, children wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. They are provided with individual hand towels

and clearly understand why they must wash their hands so they 'don't get poorly'. Children with any infectious illnesses are excluded and parents are contacted if children should become unwell whilst in the childminder's care. Children are treated appropriately in the event of an accident as the childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and a first aid box is within reach. A medication record is kept and signed by parents, however, prior written permission has not been obtained from parents before administering any medication. This is a breach of regulations.

Children learn to appreciate their local environment and benefit from fresh air and exercise as they go on regular trips to the parks, play football, walk to the library, shops and to and from the local school. A safe and secure outdoor area is also available to children for outdoor play.

Children are provided with a suitable range of snacks which promote their growth and development. These include sandwiches, fruit, breadsticks and yogurt. Children's dietary requirements are recorded and adhered to at all times by the childminder. Fresh drinking water and juice is available to the children throughout the day to keep themselves hydrated and refreshed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in the safe and secure environment of the childminder's home. Children benefit from a good amount of space and rooms are kept at an adequate light and temperature to ensure children's comfort whilst they play. There is a good range of toys and resources available to the children which are developmentally appropriate. The childminder rotates toys to ensure children are continuously motivated and takes them to the toy room to select toys of their choice. Resources are cleaned and checked regularly to ensure they are safe for children's use. Sufficient safety equipment is used. A fireguard has been erected in the living room and safety gates and high chairs are available for use if the childminder begins caring for younger children.

The childminder has taken positive steps to identify any potential hazards in the home and keep children safe. For example, all plug sockets are covered, all cupboard doors in the kitchen are locked and entrances and exits are secure. The childminder has devised an emergency evacuation plan, however, this has not been shared with the children which prevents them being clear on how to evacuate the premises in the event of a fire. Children are learning about personal safety as they are reminded to stay close when out walking, and not to climb on furniture indoors. The childminder also speaks to the children about road safety when out walking.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow if she should have any concerns about a child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a sound range of activities which are planned and provided for them. They enjoy arts and craft activities, such as finger painting, colouring, chalking and use cutters and rollers as they manipulate play dough. Children are able to use their imagination as they engage in role play and play with small world toys. They develop language skills as they look at books and practise writing their own name. Mathematical skills, such as counting are

incorporated into everyday play. For example, children count the number of steps as they walk downstairs and recognise colours in the environment. Children frequently attend local toddler groups and playgroups. This allows them to develop their social skills and extend their play experiences.

The childminder spends time talking and listening to the children. She has an awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and recognises the need to develop her awareness further if she decides to care for younger children in the future. She has built a good relationship with the children in her care and as a result they are very confident, secure and comfortable within her home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are gaining an awareness of the wider world and cultural diversity as they access a suitable range of resources which reflect positive images of race, gender, ethnicity and disability. Some cultural festivals, such as Chinese New Year and Diwali are also talked about which further develops children's awareness of our diverse society. There are currently no children in the childminder's care with any learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder displays a positive attitude towards inclusion and understands the importance of working closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's needs are met.

Strategies that are relevant to the age and development of the child are used in respect of behaviour management. Distraction techniques are employed for younger children and older children are given simple and clear explanations for unacceptable behaviour. Children's efforts are celebrated, which helps children feel good about themselves.

Parents are welcomed into the childminder's home at the beginning and end of the day. Verbal feedback keeps them informed about any relevant issues regarding their care. Information regarding children's home routines and likes and dislikes is obtained when they start to ensure they settle quickly and the childminder knows how best to meet their needs.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's positive attitude to improving the quality of care she offers. She has recently undergone training to help develop her childminding practice. The childminder recognises her responsibility to protect children from harm and ensures that children are well supervised at all times. She organises her time effectively to ensure all children in her care are given equal attention. Space is well organised to allow children to access resources and play freely.

Most aspects of documentation relating to the continuity of care for the children are in place and organised to respect confidentiality. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

During the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve her knowledge of child protection issues. This recommendation has now been met. Since the last inspection she has attended a course regarding child protection, and has a clear understanding of the signs and

symptoms of abuse and the procedures to follow if she should have any concerns about a child's welfare.

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 prior written permission is obtained from parents when administering medication
- ensure the emergency evacuation procedure is shared and practised with children.

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