

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316289
Inspection date	09 November 2007
Inspector	Judith, Mary Horsfall

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 was registered in 1992. She lives with her husband, adult child and son aged nine years in the Dearnley area of Littleborough, Rochdale, Lancashire. The ground floor of the childminder's house, excluding the conservatory, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the house for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for four children under five years of age on a part-time basis and two school-age children before and after school. Children over the age of eight years are also on roll. The childminder takes and collects children from one of the local schools and regularly attends a local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows current health and hygiene guidelines. There are suitable procedures to ensure children wash their hands at appropriate times

throughout the day, reducing the risk of infection. Children are protected because the childminder has suitable recording systems for accidents and medication and keeps consent forms for emergency treatment. The contents of the first aid kit are limited and not fully compliant with the National Standards.

Children benefit from regular exercise including walks to the local lake, visits to local play gyms and outdoor play in the garden. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs and in consultation with parents.

Health and dietary needs are suitably met because the childminder works well with parents to collect information, such as food likes and dislikes of the child. Food is hygienically prepared and stored to reduce the risks of contamination. The childminder provides the children with healthy, nutritious foods and is aware of the importance of healthy eating. Children access drinks independently and the childminder takes steps to ensure the children do not go thirsty.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are able to develop a good sense of belonging through the warm and welcoming accommodation. For example, there is a large selection of well maintained toys which are accessible to children as they enter the house. Space is creatively used, children have free access to several rooms and there are specific areas for sleep to ensure children can rest in comfort. The clean, well cared for house is securely maintained to ensure the children are cared for in safety. Regular cleaning routines ensure toys carry reduced risks of cross infection and contamination.

Children are kept safe because the childminder takes positive steps inside her home, such as keeping small items which are choking hazards away from younger children. Children are safely transported in the car because the childminder uses appropriate child-sized seats. The fire evacuation plan is displayed and regularly practised ensuring children are familiar with escape routines.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a clear understanding of her role in child protection. She has a satisfactory knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and is familiar with the procedures to follow if concerns are raised.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are making positive relationships with the childminder who takes time to understand their individual needs and preferences in consultation with parents. For example, one child who is learning to use the potty prefers to bring their own potty from home and this is readily accommodated by the childminder. Children freely make choices in their play and actively pursue their interests, such as looking at books and playing games. Children are happy and settled because the childminder takes time to give each child individual attention, getting down to children's level on the floor to join in games. Babies are frequently held and comforted, as they hold out their arms to the childminder for a hug.

Children acquire new skills and knowledge from time spent with the childminder as they undertake a wide range of arts activities. Children are beginning to learn right from wrong as the childminder calmly explains why certain behaviour is not acceptable and how it is important

to share and take turns. Children develop confidence and self-esteem because the childminder uses praise and encouragement for effort and achievement. Children benefit from participation in a broad range of activities in the home and in the local community. For example, there are regular craft sessions in the home, group play activities each week in the church hall with other children and trips to museums, farms and the seaside. Children are confident and talk freely about their home and family life. They are polite and demonstrate curiosity and interest in the world about them.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children gain awareness of their local environment and the diversity of the wider world through a satisfactory selection of resources and activities that promote positive images. For example, the children celebrate Christmas and Diwali, undertaking a range of appropriate craft activities. Children benefit from walks in the local environment where they begin to gain understanding of their neighbourhood.

The childminder ensures all the children are fully included in the life of the setting through adapting the way play is provided and offering suitable activities on a daily basis. The childminder is able to contact support for children with learning disabilities or difficulties and is aware of surrounding issues. Children are developing a good understanding of responsible behaviour as the childminder talks to them about good behaviour and explains why some conduct is not acceptable.

Children are cared for well by the childminder who works closely with parents to meet individual children's needs. Relevant information is collected on children and their families to enable suitable care to be provided. Parents are well informed of children's day-to-day activities and progress because the childminder completes daily diaries for younger children and gives older children's parents verbal feedback each day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are safe and well protected because the childminder has a good awareness of the vetting of household members and understands that children are not to be left alone with other adults. Relevant ratios are maintained to promote the safety of children and the attendance register is correctly completed. The childminder organises time, space and resources well to meet children's needs including a good variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

Children make suitable progress because the childminder has a broad knowledge and understanding of child development. However, at the time of inspection, the childminder was in breach of the conditions of her registration, by not having a relevant first aid qualification. Required documentation is up to date, shared with parents and kept confidentially. Generally, policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, well-being and achievements.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection three recommendations were made regarding record keeping and improving the range of activities which promote equality of opportunity. These have all been fully addressed, improving safety and learning opportunities for 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 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 first aid kit meets the requirements of an approved training organisation
- complete a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young 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