

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316474
Inspection date	08 October 2007
Inspector	Christine Marsh
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 1991. She lives with her husband and two children aged 18 and 11 years old. She lives in Tottington on the outskirts of Bury. The ground floor of the house and the upstairs bathroom are used for childminding and there is an enclosed rear garden for outdoor play. The property is close to local schools, shops and other amenities.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under the age of eight years. There are currently eight children under eight years on roll all of whom attend on a part time basis. She also minds children over the age of eight years before and after school. There are currently two children over eight years on roll for this type of care.

The childminder is a member of the local childminding group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean, child-friendly home where the childminder promotes satisfactory hygiene practices. Children develop skills and independence in their personal hygiene as they follow routines, such as washing their hands before mealtimes and after using the toilet. However, they currently share a towel for drying their hands, which means there is a risk of cross-infection. A first aid box is conveniently sited in the kitchen, however, some of the items in the box are out of date. This affects children's health in the event of any minor accidents. The childminder has first aid knowledge and a current first aid certificate, which helps her to care for children appropriately.

Drinks are available to children with different coloured straws so that they know which is their drink. This keeps them refreshed. Children's dietary needs are catered for in accordance with parents' wishes. The childminder provides breakfast, snacks and lunches for the children. She provides them with cooked meals, with fruit and yogurts as snacks, as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

Children benefit from fresh air and exercise daily. They walk to and from school to collect older children and go to local parks where they play on swings and slides. In the back garden children play on sit and ride toys and on the rocking horse. In these ways children develop their large motor skills. Indoors they do jigsaws and play with construction materials that develop their fine motor skills. Babies sleep in the travel cot or in lie-back buggies according to parents' wishes. The childminder has a quiet time with children after lunch when they listen to stories or watch a video. In these ways children's needs for physical activity and rest are met, contributing to a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's development needs are met through the provision of a good range of safe, high quality and developmentally appropriate resources. Children have a wide range of small world toys to play with including plastic animals that provide children with opportunities to develop their imaginations. The childminder plays alongside the children helping them to play and have fun. There is a range of construction materials and books to look at that are available for children to select independently. This helps children to develop their independence. A small child-sized table and chairs provide a suitable space for children to eat, and in the lounge, a low table is used where children can concentrate on quiet activities, such as jigsaws and drawing in comfort.

Hazards and risks are assessed frequently and the childminder has appropriate safety equipment, such as fireguards and smoke alarms, in her home. Children are carefully supervised to keep them safe. The childminder undertakes fire drills with the children using both exits. For older children a plan of the home shows where these exits are, to further develop their awareness of safety issues. On walks the childminder talks about the 'Green cross code' to the children. She uses reins where this is necessary, and holds children's hands. In these ways children are developing an awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

The childminder has attended courses on child protection and she has a sound knowledge of child protection issues and procedures. This knowledge helps to safeguard children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, secure and confident in the childminder's home. They play well together and clearly enjoy each others company as they giggle and imitate each others actions. For example, a child makes a home by putting child-sized chairs across a gap between the furniture. Another child is invited in and together they invent games based in their miniature home. When another child arrives the children welcome the newcomer. The childminder encourages children to play sociably together and to consider each others feelings. She explains any rules, for example, those relating to safety issues, and quietly and consistently ensures that children observe them. Children benefit from her consistency and value and appreciate one another.

The childminder reads to the children regularly. Children look at books curling up on the settee and turning the pages carefully. Older children read the story to toddlers who listen appreciatively. Younger children imitate the older ones looking at books with concentration. They are learning to treat books with respect.

Children like imaginative play and use toy crockery and plastic food to make meals and pretend to pour drinks of coffee into toy cups. They are developing their imaginations through this play. The childminder joins in with them extending their play and providing a suitable level of challenge. Older children are encouraged to write menus to develop their play further and to take on roles, such as being the customer or the person serving the food.

The childminder talks to children about colours, shapes and sizes during their activities reinforcing their understanding and enjoyment. For example, when they are eating their toast she talks to them about having two pieces of toast left. She asks a child how many children and how many adults are in the room. The child counts accurately and confidently with little support from the childminder. She talks to all children at a level that is appropriate to their current level of understanding and encourages them to repeat words that they are just learning. In these ways children are becoming more confident communicators.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are very successfully catered for. The childminder knows each child's individual personality and treats them in an appropriate manner. In this way children are supported and are flourishing in her care. She works in partnership with parents to provide good quality care and stimulation tailored to children's current needs.

Positive images of difference are promoted by the toys and resources the childminder provides. For example, the childminder provides dolls and small world figures that represent a range of ethnic groups, and books that present positive images of people with disabilities. These, together with the childminder's discussions as issues arise, are helping children begin to appreciate the diversity of the world and to value people of all cultures and ages.

Parents are pleased with the service that she provides and the support she gives their children. For example, the childminder helps children with their homework and liaises with schools passing information on to parents. She looks after children and their brothers and sisters. This helps

the younger children to settle. Children benefit from having friends to play with of similar ages and others who are older or younger than themselves. These opportunities to mix with a range of age groups help children to develop social skills and to learn to care for others with different needs to their own. For example, children stroke babies gently and are caring towards them.

The childminder uses praise very effectively explaining what it is about the behaviour that she is pleased with. She explains to children the need to tidy one game away before they get another out and they help tidy away very efficiently. She rewards children with stickers and they smile showing pleasure in their achievement.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Documentation is kept in accordance with the National Standards and is used to promote the safety and well-being of the children. Policies and procedures are regularly updated; some are in the process of being updated currently. Parents are fully informed about all aspects of their children's care on a daily basis.

Routines are planned around young children's physical needs. The childminder plans her time and resources effectively to provide children with access to a range of stimulating activities. Space is well organised to provide a safe, stimulating, age-appropriate and accessible environment for the children. This helps them develop their independence.

The childminder is well qualified and has a commitment to providing a quality provision for the children. She has a sound understanding of children's needs, and she undertakes training to update her knowledge. This helps her to promote children's development, their ability to enjoy and achieve, and to make a positive contribution.

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 was asked to ensure that accident forms are fully completed, dated and signed by parents. This has been addressed appropriately.

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 can be seen 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 contents of the first aid box are checked frequently and replaced as necessary
- review hygiene procedures to prevent the spread of infection.

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