

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	404541
Inspection date	10 December 2007
Inspector	Joan Isabel Madden
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 good. 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 2001. She lives with her husband, three adult children and a grandchild aged six weeks. They live in a house in Sale Moor within walking distance of schools, shops and parks. The family have two cockatiels in the living room and chipmunks that are kept in a cage outside. The childminder's eldest daughter, who is qualified to NVQ level 3 in childcare, works as her assistant. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding, this includes a playroom, kitchen, living room and down stairs toilet. There is a back garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and there are currently six children on roll aged from 17 months to nine years. They all attend on a part time basis. The childminder attends the local carer and toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a qualified nursery nurse and has a level 3 in Homecare and Education. She is a member of the Trafford Childminding Network Association and National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean house, where there are effective procedures to help the children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day and are taught to wipe their noses. Younger children have individually named towels on hooks at their level and paper towels are available to others. Sensible practices, such as children eating in high chairs help to prevent food from becoming cross-contaminated and thereby protect the children from infections. There is an effective nappy changing routine in place. The childminder is suitably qualified in first aid to enable her to appropriately treat children with minor injuries. All documentation relating to medical emergencies, administration of medication and accidents is correctly maintained ensuring children are dealt with appropriately.

Nutritious food and discussion promotes the children's good health. The children enjoy a balanced range of nutritious and healthy meals and snacks that are provided in agreement with the parents. On inspection day the children enjoy cereal and water for breakfast, raisins, tangerines and water for snack and pasta tuna with mixed vegetables for lunch. There are good procedures in place to record the children's dietary needs, likes and dislikes and the parent's preferences as regards food and drink. Parents of the very young are well informed of their children's daily intake of food by providing them with daily diaries. Drinking water is made available to children giving them the opportunity to appreciate water as a healthy way of remaining hydrated.

The children enjoy a warm and very supportive relationship with the childminder helping to promote their emotional well-being. They play in the garden, walk everywhere and visit the local parks allowing them to enjoy fresh air and develop a healthy lifestyle. Pre-school children attend the local children's centre and childminding groups where there is plenty of space and equipment for them to move around and learn to take risks within a safe environment. This helps the children to gain control of their bodies and develop their large physical skills. The children rest and sleep according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children feel welcome in the very child friendly house that includes a bright and dedicated playroom. The new downstairs toilet is convenient for the children to develop their self-help skills. The stimulating wall displays reflecting the children's experiences help them to feel a sense of belonging. Space is well organised to meet the children's needs. Toddlers who are beginning to walk have inviting toys arranged at their height around the room, to encourage them to walk from one activity to the other. The children have easy access to a wide range of high quality toys and materials that are clean, safe and well maintained. Resources are organised into see-through, boxes to encourage the children to manage resources for themselves. Outdoor equipment includes a sand pit, a swinging bench, play house and balls. There is high quality baby equipment to meet the needs of the very young, including a double buggy and high chairs.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor environment that is suitable for children. The childminder has comprehensive documentation in place that successfully underpins her safety arrangements for the children. There are sensible preventative measures in place to keep

children safe. The kitchen is inaccessible at appropriate times, plastic corners cover sharp table corners, cupboards containing hazards are inaccessible to children, sharp knives are out of reach. There is a stair gate at the bottom of stairs, electrical sockets are covered and utility meters are inaccessible to children. Outdoors, the fish pond is made inaccessible to children with fencing, however, a safety issue has been identified regarding the security of the rear garden. The childminder has devised and practised an emergency escape plan, there are smoke alarms in every room and a fire blanket in the kitchen.

Children are effectively safeguarded because the childminder clearly understands her role in safeguarding children, and is fully aware of the procedures to follow should a concern arise. The written policy includes procedures for reporting concerns about children's welfare that is in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are very happy and settled. They benefit from being cared for by a qualified and experienced nursery nurse who provides them with a balanced, worthwhile and varied day. She is introducing the 'Birth to three matters' framework to adapt activities to promote the children's learning. As a result, they experience stimulating activities that are challenging and enable them to acquire new knowledge and skills. The children experience both adult led and child initiated activities that enable them to discover. Together the children explore different sounds using a variety of musical instruments, they experience different colours, shapes and sounds in a collection of plastic bottles, they look at books, play with pasta and fish shapes, discover how to operate the wooden activity centre, experience an assortment of treasure baskets and experience mark making using crayons and paper at the small table and chairs. The childminder effectively uses the outdoors to promote the children's learning. They grow fruit and vegetables in the garden and observe the life cycles of frogs. The children have a very good relationship with the childminder helping to promote their confidence. She spends a lot of time interacting with them, successfully meeting their individual needs. They are supported in their play and comforted as they settle down to sleep.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are conscientiously cared for by the childminder who works well with parents to ensure they are included fully in the life of the setting. Children have very good relationships with the childminder helping to promote their confidence. The childminder ensures she is aware of children's individual needs by liaising with parents and recording any relevant information. She is able to spend plenty of time playing with children ensuring she meets their individual needs. The children are learning to make choices and take decisions as they choose from a wide range of toys and equipment. The children enjoy celebrating a range of festivals helping them to become aware of the wider society, develop their self-esteem and respect differences in one another.

The children are well behaved. They are encouraged to be kind to one another and work harmoniously with others. Children are successfully learning to understand responsible behaviour as the childminder provides them with sensible house rules and talks to them about appropriate behaviour.

There are good relationships between the childminder and parents, helping to provide the children with continuity of care. The parents are well informed and are provided with a very detailed prospectus, copy of the daily routine and a comprehensive range of policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Thorough vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by the childminder who has a good knowledge and understanding of child development. Her qualifications and experience underpin the good care of the children. She is conscientious, committed, organised and has a high regard for the well-being of all children. The children feel at home and at ease with the well organised environment. The children benefit from a well planned and structured week that includes attending pre-school groups and recreational facilities. They take part in adult-led and child-initiated activities. The comprehensive range of policies and procedures is used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the provision and their children's experiences. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. 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 childminder was required to improve safety outside. Whilst the provider has erected temporary fencing to enclose the garden this is not secure enough.

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 good. 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 back garden is totally secure.

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