

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	500249
Inspection date	22 November 2007
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 good. 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 July 1998. She lives with her husband, two adult children and two younger children aged 12 and 15 in a semi-detached property in the Crumpsall area of Manchester.

The lounge, playroom and toilet on the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play. The family have a pet dog.

The childminder is currently caring for four children under eight years and three children over eight, who attend on a variety of placements. She is able to take and collect children from St Anne's Primary School. The childminder holds a National Vocational Qualification level 3 in childcare and she is a member of the National Childminding Association. The childminder is also part of the Manchester Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is very well promoted within the childminder's home. The childminder has established effective routines to reduce the spread of infection. For example, surfaces are wiped down throughout the day and children are encouraged to wash or wipe their hands at appropriate times of the day, such as before eating and after toileting. Children are developing good self-care skills as they confidently access wipes to clean themselves and help to clean the table after messy play. Good nappy changing routines are in place. The childminder wears an apron and disposable gloves to further reduce the risk of cross contamination. Children are treated appropriately in the event of an accident as the childminder has a valid first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid box is within reach. All accident, incident and medication records are correctly maintained.

Children learn to appreciate their environment and benefit from fresh air as they go on regular walks to parks, playgroups and to the shops. They have access to a rear garden where they can play with a wide range of equipment, which helps to develop their physical skills.

Children are provided with a good balance of hot and cold, healthy homemade meals, which include pasta and stews, followed by yogurt and fresh fruit. Children are provided with a choice of juice or water to keep themselves hydrated throughout the day.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a safe and secure environment for children to play in comfort enabling them to move freely around the ground floor of the house. There is a good range of play materials, which are safe, in good condition and meet the needs of all the children who attend. Resources are generally well organised to allow children to make choice in their play. However, access to toys for younger children is limited.

Children are kept safe as all hazards within the home have been identified and eliminated. For example, a padlocked gate in the rear garden ensures children do not access unsafe areas and safety gates are used to restrict access to the kitchen. Children are learning about personal safety, for example, the childminder gently reminds them not to throw boxes because they might hurt each other. A clear emergency evacuation procedure is in place and practised regularly with the children. This ensures they have a good understanding of how to evacuate the premises in the event of a fire or emergency.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder is fully aware of her responsibilities regarding child protection. She has attended training in this area and has a good understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedure to follow when reporting concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and secure within the childminder's home. The childminder makes an effort to ensure that children are engaged in activities which are developmentally appropriate and meet the children's interests. She has a basic knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters'

framework, which she is beginning to use to plan for children's learning. However, this is not yet fully developed. Children are beginning to build relationships as they visit playgroups in the area and socialise with different children. They are clearly very comfortable in the childminder's care and confidently communicate their needs to her.

Children have high levels of self-esteem, for example, the children are deeply engrossed in a gluing and sticking activity. Upon arrival, the inspector is quickly invited by a child to look at their work. The child says 'look at my picture' while another adds 'mine has lots of different colours'. A wide range of activities are planned for the children which cover all areas of learning. For example, they develop their senses as they taste different foods and play with sand and water. Language development is promoted through reading, story sacks, singing familiar songs and mark making activities. Regular visits to the library help children develop an appreciation for books. Number skills are incorporated into everyday routines, such as counting the number of steps as they walk down stairs and singing number songs. Children have opportunities to use their imagination as they play with small world toys and dress up in different costumes. They express themselves creatively as they play with musical instruments and take part in a variety of arts and craft activities.

Children benefit from good first hand experiences within the childminder's care. For example, they go on a walk to pick raspberries and later use them to make jam. This is an activity which has been repeated as the children thoroughly enjoy it. They also regularly take part in baking activities where the children firstly visit the local supermarket to collect the ingredients. They then delight at seeing the end result of their baking.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder sets herself as a positive role model and treats all children with individual care and respect. A good settling in policy enables children to become familiar with their surroundings. She gets to know their likes and dislikes and works closely with parents to meet their individual needs. Children are learning about the wider world through good quality posters and resources which reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. They celebrate festivals, such as Divali, Hannukah and Eid which helps children gain an appreciation of cultural differences. Children with learning difficulties are well supported as the childminder understands the importance of working closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure children's needs are met.

Children are encouraged to play well together and to share and take turns. Age-appropriate strategies are used in respect of behaviour management. Distraction techniques are employed for younger children and simple explanations are given to older children for unacceptable behaviour.

Children benefit from the very close working relationships the childminder has established with their parents. A comprehensive range of written policies and procedures and information about the childminder is provided in the form of an information booklet. This helps to keep parents fully informed about the provision and the childminder's childcare practices. Informal chats keep parents well informed of their children's day and daily diaries are provided for those parents who have young babies. The childminder has a written complaints procedure and log available for parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has a number of years experience of working with children and regularly attends training to enhance her childminding practice and to keep herself up to date with recent issues. Children enjoy the well organised environment where the childminder is enthusiastic and conscientious, thereby, providing children with good quality care. There is a clear timetable in place which facilitates taking and collecting children from the local primary school, and ensures a balance is made between adult led and child led activities.

The childminder demonstrates a clear commitment to improving the quality of care she offers and is now part of the local Childminding Network.

All documentation for childminding purposes are in place and are of a high standard. They are stored securely and effectively support 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

During the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure the conditions of registration are met and to ensure parents sign the medication record to acknowledge medication administered. These two recommendations have now been met. The childminder is consistently meeting her conditions of registration. No medication has been administered since the last inspection, however, the childminder is clear on the procedure to follow if she should need to administer medication.

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 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):

- develop planning, observation and assessment systems in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- improve the accessibility of toys and resources.

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