

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503603
Inspection date	25 January 2008
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 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 2001. She lives with her six year old daughter on the boundaries of Middleton and Chadderton in the borough of Rochdale, Lancashire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five all day on a part time basis, and two school aged children before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children and attends the local parent/toddler group. She is experienced in caring for with learning difficulties. The childminder is currently studying for a level 3 qualification in home based child care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay very healthy because the childminder has devised and implemented a substantial supply of relevant health and hygiene policies which are shared with parents. For example,

children are actively learning about personal hygiene because the childminder ensures children wash their hands after using the toilet, explaining about germs and supporting this with colourful posters about hand washing.

Children are highly protected in cases of accidents or illness because the childminder has a current first aid qualification and regularly checks and records the contents of her first aid box. All the necessary consent forms are in place and detailed procedures are practised to ensure that children are not at risk of cross infection. These include using disposable gloves when changing nappies and asking parents to promptly collect children if there are concerns about infectious illnesses. The childminder has undertaken relevant training such as general health and safety and how to work with asthmatic children. Children benefit from daily exercise and fresh air as they walk to and from school, sometimes stopping off to play in the park. Children rest and sleep according to their individual needs in consultation with parents.

Children's health and dietary needs are very successfully met because the childminder works well with parents and records any special dietary requirements. The children benefit because the childminder has carried out relevant training about healthy eating and has experience in catering for special diets. Children have the advantage of a strong policy of healthy eating with many processed foods such as chicken nuggets being not offered. A clear food hygiene policy is implemented to ensure food preparation areas are hygienically maintained.

Fresh drinking water is available at all times to ensure the children do not go thirsty

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children develop a strong sense of belonging through the warm and welcoming accommodation and childminder's friendly approach. Space is used creatively and children have access to all available rooms, allowing them to move with freedom and confidence. A suitable range of equipment and activities are set out before they arrive. However, there are few natural and everyday objects to play with which restricts children's play and learning in this area. The accommodation is clean and very well maintained, with the childminder carrying out good quality, regular risk assessments to identify and take action on any hazards.

Children are kept very safe as the childminder takes positive steps inside and outside her home. For example, she is vigilant about small babies and choking hazards, she talks to the children about road safety and not approaching unknown dogs in the park. Children are well protected in cases of emergency because the relevant equipment is in place such as fire blanket and working smoke detectors. A clear evacuation plan has been prepared, practised and shared with parents.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a very clear understanding of her role in child protection procedures. She has prepared a comprehensive policy which is shared with parents and she is familiar with the procedures to follow if concerns are raised. The relevant guidance and contact telephone numbers are on file and the childminder has undertaken further, recent training to up date her knowledge and understanding of this area.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are developing great confidence and self-esteem because they are regularly praised for their efforts and achievements. Children's individual needs are actively met because the childminder takes good measures to understand their requirements. For example, highly detailed individual records are kept about each child and the childminder is aware of children's routines and food preferences. Children are offered an extensive range of fun, stimulating activities which offer challenges that are appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Children benefit from having play and learning opportunities extended by the childminder. For example, as they walk to school the childminder takes binoculars and the children take great interest in seeing the world around them in a different way. Children are very happy settled as they separate well from their main carer and are relaxed in the childminder's company. Children's sense of belonging is further developed as they have their own bags with slippers, spare clothes and other personal possessions. The childminder takes care to listen to the children and values their opinions.

Children confidently acquire new knowledge and skills such as learning about insects when on a bug hunt and baking their own food. Older children have access to a quiet area where they can do their homework after school. During school holidays, children benefit from a wide range of visits to the local and wider community such as trips to the library and large regional parks.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children gain a good awareness of the diversity of the wider world through a good selection of resources and activities that promote positive images. For example, they celebrate Chinese New Year and have tried a variety of foods from different cultural backgrounds. There is a broad range of resources which depict broader society including people with disabilities and challenging gender stereotypes. Children are learning about their wider community as they regularly visit local facilities.

Children benefit because the childminder warmly welcomes all children including those with learning disabilities or difficulties. Parents praise the childminder on how well she cares for children with learning disabilities. Children are advantaged as everyone is included in all activities, which may be adapted to ensure each child plays an active part in the day to day life of the setting. Behaviour issues are suitably dealt with as the childminder uses appropriate strategies depending on the ages and levels of understanding of the children.

Children are cared for very well by the childminder who works closely with parents to meet individual children's needs. Good information is collected on children and their families to ensure likes dislikes, religion and health are taken into consideration. Parents state that the childminder is very reliable and accommodating, working around shift patterns and giving high quality feedback each day.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Suitable vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for in the home. The childminder diligently ensures children are not left alone with any other adults. Children's

welfare and development are excellently promoted as the childminder has an exceptionally good understanding of child development.

The childminder has a first class regard for the well-being of all children. She has undertaken extensive supplementary training and is strongly committed to increasing her knowledge and improving her practice. Space, time and resources are meticulously organised to ensure daily routines benefit the children in a highly effective manner.

Exemplary policies and procedures work exceedingly well in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability 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 previous inspection there was a recommendation to develop resources for imaginative play and to develop resources which reflect all aspects of equal opportunities and promote anti-discriminatory practice. These issues have now been addressed and there are adequate resources as recommended.

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

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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 play resources to include more natural and everyday objects.

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