

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 505087
Inspection date 10 January 2008
Inspector (Kate) Kathryn, Jane Ryder

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 1988. She lives with her husband in a house in the Chadderton area of Oldham. The whole of the ground floor and the first floor bathroom facilities are used for childminding. There is a safe and secure outside play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time and currently there are four on roll attending various times. The registration does not include overnight care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder promotes children's general health through her daily cleaning routines. She regularly uses an anti-bacterial spray, ensuring her home is kept to a good standard of cleanliness. Children learn about keeping themselves healthy, as they routinely wash their hands after certain activities, such as before eating, after using the bathroom and after taking part in creative activities. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate and accident and medication

records are available. However, she does not have a first aid kit and she has not obtained written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment. This impacts on children's health and welfare.

Young children benefit from daily walks in the fresh air as they take and collect children from school and playgroup. They enjoy regular trips to the park and frequent play in the garden during fine weather. Children enjoy being pushed forwards and backwards on a large exercise ball, stretching out their arms and legs.

The childminder has appropriate knowledge about individual children's dietary needs. She provides meals that she feels appeal to children and which they will eat. For example, pizza, fish fingers and chicken nuggets. Children enjoy yoghurts and fruit, although some children will only eat certain fruit, such as melon. The childminder offers vegetables but finds that children will only try peas and carrots. Children can readily quench their thirst as they have access to cups of sugar free orange or blackcurrant juice.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and well maintained family home where they have sufficient space to move around freely and play in comfort. Their play and learning needs are met through the provision of a suitable range of safe, good quality and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment which also reflect diversity. These are maintained in a good clean condition which minimises risks to children and are stored in large toy boxes to aid children's independent access.

The childminder follows satisfactory procedures to ensure children are kept safe. For example, socket covers and kitchen cupboard locks protect children from potential risks. Fire safety equipment, such as a fire blanket and smoke alarms on both levels of the house are available and public liability insurance is provided. Children are learning what to do in an emergency, such as how to safely evacuate the house through their discussions with the childminder but they have not practiced an emergency escape plan. Children learn to keep themselves safe during outdoor visits. For example, they walk by the childminder's side and they learn how to cross the road safely by looking and listening.

The childminder has a suitable understanding of child protection procedures in line with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures. She has sufficient awareness about possible signs and symptoms of abuse and is clear about reporting her concerns. She has reference materials and appropriate telephone numbers readily to hand.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder develops warm relationships with children, they are happy, relaxed and content in her care. They frequently approach the childminder for cuddles and they sit contentedly on her knee with their personal comforter, either just enjoying the closeness or listening to stories. She interacts well with the children, listening to and playing with them on their level. The childminder frequently provides praise, which helps to raise children's confidence and self-esteem.

Children have access to play activities that reflect their interests and are appropriate for their age and stage of development. For example, children particularly enjoy playing with a potato head. They begin to recognise where the eyes, nose, mouth and ears are located on the face as they slot the parts onto the face. Children enjoy looking at books with the childminder. They independently choose their favourite stories and listen well. The childminder encourages children to interact with the story and they show pleasure as they open the 'doors' to reveal animals. Older children enjoy engaging in creative activities as they return from school. They frequently choose to make cards and pictures, using a variety of collage materials.

The childminder helps children make progress as she asks questions about the animals they see in the books and what sounds they make. She helps them to recognise where the eyes, nose and ears go on the face. She helps them make links as they talk about Percy also having a blanket to keep him warm and she points out her own eyes, nose etc and that of the children, in relation to slotting them into the face of the potato head.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet children's individual needs. A settling-in period ensures that good relationships are built between the childminder, children and parents. This time allows her to gather information about children's individual needs, such as their dietary requirements and home routines. The childminder encourages children to make choices in their play activities and their knowledge of the wider world is explored through the small range of play materials which helps to promote their understanding of diversity.

The childminder manages children's behaviour by using a number of appropriate strategies, such as distraction. She guides young children away from touching items, such as TV remote controls by using distraction techniques and diverting their attention away through the toys. Children quickly understand the childminder's expectations. For example, they know toys must be tidied up before choosing something else to play with and they take their drinks in the kitchen. Positive behaviour is encouraged through praise and encouragement. This helps children develop confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit from the partnership the childminder has developed with parents. She communicates with them daily through informal conversations, which helps to keep them informed about the care of their children. The childminder is not aware to keep a complaints record and this is a breach of her registration.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a carer who is committed to further development. She has attended several short training courses since her last inspection, such as art and craft, first aid, children's play and development and 'Birth to three matters'. She ensures that children are cared for in appropriate ratios and that the areas used by children are safe and well organised. Older children can eat or play at the adult sized dining table, whilst younger children use the child sized table and chairs in the lounge. The childminder uses her time effectively to ensure she meets the individual needs of children in her care, such as time to eat, rest and play.

The childminder keeps her documentation organised in a file with separate sections for individual children's records. In general, she has the required documentation available. For example, she

has written agreements with parents, accident and medication records. However, her registration certificate is kept in a file and is not openly displayed and she lacks awareness about keeping a complaints record.

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 asked to obtain parental written permission for her to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and to practise emergency evacuations of the house. Parental permission has not been obtained for emergency medical treatment and although the childminder talks to the children about the safe evacuation of her home they have not practised an emergency escape plan. Both recommendations remain outstanding and are raised within this inspection.

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 have procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints from parents and to keep a record of complaints and their outcome.

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):

- make sure there is a first aid box, the contents of which are determined in the first aid training course
- obtain written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment
- improve fire safety precautions by making sure children have opportunities to practise an emergency escape plan
- improve knowledge of keeping a complaints record and develop a system for the recording of any complaints, in line with regulations
- make sure the registration certificate is displayed during operational hours.

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