

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278423
Inspection date	24 October 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 has been registered since December 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 11 and 13 years. They live in a house in the Crumpsall area of North Manchester. All areas of the property are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

She is registered to provide care for six children. There are currently six children, including two over eight years, on roll. There are two children attending full time with the remaining children attending a variety of part-time hours. Children are taken to and collected from the local school.

With parental permission children are taken to groups, the library and on trips. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. The childminder acts as a good role model as she cleans throughout the day and children learn to take responsibility as they tidy up their toys after playing. Children are learning the importance of keeping clean as they are encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times of the day, such as before eating, after messy play and after nappy changing or going to the toilet. An effective sick child policy is in place, which excludes children who are ill, helping to prevent the spread of infection. Children are treated appropriately in the event of an accident as the childminder holds a valid first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid box is within reach.

Frequent walks to the local parks to play football or have a picnic help children to develop an appreciation of their environment and benefit from regular fresh air and exercise. The childminder prepares fresh meals for the children, such as pasta, jacket potatoes, quiche and sandwiches, which helps promote their growth and development. Fresh drinking water is available for the children at all times, which allows them to keep themselves hydrated and refreshed throughout the day. Information regarding special dietary requirements is obtained from parents and adhered to at all times by the childminder. Children are gaining a good awareness of being healthy as they have created a 'healthy eating' book. This includes drawings done by the children, such as brushing their teeth and eating pasta.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a bright and well lit environment, which is maintained at an adequate temperature to ensure children's comfort as they play. Resources are organised well to allow children to make choices about their play and access resources independently. Good quality toys are available for the children, which are developmentally appropriate and sustain children's interest. The childminder makes good use of the local toy library to ensure toys are varied and stimulating for the children.

The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of safety within the home. She conducts a risk assessment of the rooms used by children each morning to minimize any potential hazards. Most hazards within the home have been identified, however, the gas and electric meters are within children's reach. The rear garden is generally safe, however a barbeque is accessible to the children which poses a potential risk to children's safety. Entrances and exits to the premises are secure and toys and resources are checked regularly to ensure they are safe for children's use. An effective emergency evacuation procedure is in place and practised with the children. This ensures they are clear on how to get out of the house in the event of an emergency. Children are learning about personal safety, for example, the childminder asks the older children to tidy up the toys so that the younger children don't fall and hurt themselves.

The childminder is clear on her responsibilities regarding safeguarding children. She has a good knowledge and understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse and is aware of the procedure to follow should she have any concerns about a child's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's home. The childminder interacts with the children at every opportunity and they clearly value the great deal of attention they receive from her. The children are very confident and form good relationships with the childminder and their peers. Regular trips to the local toddlers groups help children develop relationships and socialise with other children. A good range of activities are planned and provided for the children which they enthusiastically take part in. For example, Children happily put on their aprons and sit by the table in preparation for painting. They have fun as they make hand prints to make hedgehogs for the autumn display. Young babies also join in and delight at playing with the paint. Children also particularly enjoy baking cakes and biscuits, which they later decorate.

The childminder has a good awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework, however this is not currently being used to plan for children's learning. Activities, such as story telling and singing help children to develop their language skills. Number is incorporated into everyday play, such as counting the number of building blocks as they build a tower, singing number songs and looking at number books. Children are able to express themselves creatively as they move to music, play with musical instruments, draw pictures and take part in various planned craft activities. They use their imagination as they play with small world toys and have fun as they dress up in various costumes.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children and their families are welcomed into an inclusive environment. Children access a good range of resources which reflect equality of opportunity and are gaining an awareness of cultural diversity as they celebrate different festivals, such as Eid and Chinese New Year. The childminder is currently not minding any children with learning difficulties or disabilities. However, discussions show her clear understanding of the importance of relevant training, working closely with parents and seeking advice from outside agencies to ensure children's needs are fully met.

Children are well behaved within the childminder's home. She adopts appropriate strategies in relation to behaviour management. Distraction techniques are employed for younger children and simple explanations are provided for older children. Consistent use of praise and encouragement promotes a positive and supportive environment.

Children benefit from a positive working relationship which has been established between the childminder and their parents. Daily informal chats keep parents fully informed on their children's care. The childminder is currently developing 'learning journey' booklets containing photographs of children at play for parents to keep. An effective settling in procedure has been established to ensure children are comfortable and happy within the home.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children express themselves freely in the childminder's home. They 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 includes attending toddler groups, picking up children from the local primary schools 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. She recognises her responsibility to supervise children at all times.

Most documentation for childminding purposes are in place and are of a good standard, however some omissions have been identified. There is currently no written permission from parents to administer emergency medical treatment. Also, medication records are not consistently signed by parents. The childminder provides a range of written policies and procedures which help underpin the level of care she offers.

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 make the drain in the outside area inaccessible to the children and to inform parents of the procedure to follow in the event of a complaint. Both recommendations have now been met. The drain is now safe and out of children's reach and a written complaints procedure and system for logging complaints is now securely in place and available to parents.

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
- ensure written permission is obtained from parents to seek emergency medical treatment and medication records are consistently signed by parents
- ensure the barbeque in the rear garden is inaccessible to the children and ensure the electric and gas meters are out of children's reach.

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