



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY295534
Inspection date	20 August 2005
Inspector	Glynis Margaret Kite

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and two children aged four years and twelve months. The family live Worsley, Salford. The premises are within walking distance of the local schools, library and a park. The lounge, diner/kitchen, conservatory, first floor toilet/bathroom, rear bedroom and enclosed front and rear garden are used for childminding. The family have a pet dog.

There are four children on the register. Children attend on a part time basis. There may be a maximum of four children on the premises at any one time.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from daily routines, which promote good personal hygiene. Children know and understand the importance of washing their hands and that this prevents the spread of infection. The premises are generally clean and maintained to a satisfactory standard, however, procedures for cleaning with regard to the family dog could compromise the health and safety of children.

Healthy eating is promoted. As a result, children know and understand the benefits of eating fresh fruit and vegetables, however, they do not always readily choose these options. The childminder follows parents wishes with regard to providing meals and snacks for their children. Children enjoy a variety of foods, which take account of their individual needs and food preferences. Fresh drinking water is always available and children also have a choice of sugar free juices and milk.

All children benefit from regular outdoor play. This is in the garden and during outings in the local parks. Children benefit from the fresh air and opportunities to develop physical skills, such as riding bicycles and climbing.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The environment is friendly, warm and welcoming. The space is organised well to enable children to enjoy freedom of movement. They have access to a good range of furniture, toys and equipment, which promote safety, choice and independence. Children are confident and freely choose from a wide range of toys that are easily accessible to them. Children are involved in many activities within the wider community, which support physical development and social interaction.

Children are kept safe while in the childminder's care because she implements good safety procedures as part of the daily routine. However, there is no risk assessment in place for the activities that take place away from the childminder's home. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe through discussion and the clear instructions given by the childminder. She makes use of safety equipment to further enhance their overall safety.

The welfare of children is further promoted as the childminder has good knowledge and understanding of the local Area Child Protection Committee procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and settled in the childminder's home. They are confident and enjoy a wide range of toys and play equipment. Children benefit from regular trips and outings to a variety of interesting places. They also participate in sporting activities in the local sports centre.

The childminder plans daily activities based on the children's interest and level of ability. The planning includes outdoor activities everyday. Children generally play well together and enjoy the support of the childminder. They are learning about sharing and taking turns during play and through daily routines. The childminder helps to boost confidence through praise and encouragement.

The childminder encourages children to try new activities, for example, the computer. They competently use the mouse and move from one screen to another with ease. Children are also learning new words, which are associated with the use of a computer.

Children freely choose activities and regularly initiate their own play. Children's work is displayed and also saved in books to demonstrate the progress they are making. Children happily talk about the pictures and associated activities. Children frequently engage in first hand experiences, such as baking and other creative activities, using a variety of natural and manufactured materials.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

To enable the childminder to meet the individual needs of children in her care, she exchanges lots of information with parents and records the details. As a result, children's routines are maintained and their needs met well. A programme of gradual visits enables parents and children to meet the childminder and her family and become familiar with the surroundings. Children benefit from these visits and settle quickly. Children are treated equally and with respect. They are provided with a good range of resources and activities to promote individual development, however, they have limited access to resources that reflect diversity in the community. Children participate in many positive activities within the local community.

Children are supported well by the childminder and as a result, they are confident and happy. Children are beginning to play well together and learning to share and take turns. The childminder manages children's behaviour effectively through adopting various strategies, such as distraction and discussion. Older children know and understand the ground rules and respond positively. They benefit from the consistent approach shared between the parents and childminder. The childminder has formed good working relationships with parents. She shares all written information and exchanges verbal information on a daily basis.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are happy and relaxed in the care of the childminder. They mix well with members of the family and feel at home. Children enjoy play under close supervision of the childminder and benefit from the suitable play space provided.

The childminder makes good use of written records to ensure the individual needs of children are met well. She ensures all required certificates are up to date and available for inspection.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of those who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

There were no recommendations or actions raised at registration.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 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):

- improve standards of hygiene with regard to the dog
- develop resources that promote positive images and reflect diversity in the community
- improve knowledge and understanding of the needs of children under 3, for example through the use of the Birth to three framework
- carryout a risk assessment with regard to taking children swimming.

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