

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312248
Inspection date	08 November 2007
Inspector	Patricia Graham
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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1981. She lives with her husband in the Droylsden area of Tameside. The playroom, lounge, dining room and kitchen of the childminder's house are used for childminding and there is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for one child under five full-time, and two children under five part-time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local toddler groups. The family has two dogs.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows good hygiene routines. For example, she ensures all play areas and toys are thoroughly cleaned and uses anti-bacterial cleaner on food preparation areas. This minimises the risk of cross infection. The childminder is careful to ensure the family pets do not pose a risk to children's health as feeding bowls are not accessible to

children. Children are sufficiently protected from illness and infection because there are adequate procedures in place for recording accidents and administering medication.

Children are suitably nourished because the childminder offers a selection of healthy foods. For example, children enjoy home-made meals of potato hash and vegetable dishes. Between meals they are provided with fresh fruit selections and yoghurts. This promotes children's awareness of healthy eating. The childminder is aware of recording dietary needs and food diaries are completed for younger children. As a result, parents are well informed of their child's food intake.

All children benefit from fresh air and exercise and take part in regular outdoor activities. They play actively in the back garden and enjoy trips along the canal to feed the ducks. Children are able to rest according to their needs and make full use of the comfortable beanbags as they relax and unwind their bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a setting which is homely, warm and spacious. Vivid colour schemes in the playroom and brightly coloured posters provide a child focused environment, which increases children's sense of belonging. The home is well organised to meet children's needs. For example, children play actively in the designated playroom, which has lots of toys and resources easily accessible. This promotes children's independence as they freely select activities of their choosing.

Children are kept safe and secure both inside and outside the home. For example, all required safety features are in place, such as a safety gate securely fitted at the bottom of the stairs and appropriate car seats are used for transporting children in a vehicle. Children learn about safety through meaningful discussions with the childminder. They know not to walk near the edge of the canal 'Because the water is dangerous' and to take care when walking near the road. The childminder has most documentation in place to ensure children are transported safely. For example, written parental consent is sought before children are transported in a vehicle.

Children are adequately protected because the childminder has a sound understanding of child protection issues. She is aware of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and understands her duty to respond to any child protection concerns. As a result, children are safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a warm and caring relationship with the childminder. They are happy and confident, which increases their sense of well-being and security. Children access a good selection of manufactured toys and resources, which sustain their interest. For example, they are happy as they play imaginatively with the kitchen making cups of tea and serving lunch using a variety of play foods. Children develop their social skills as they play with other children at the local toddler groups. At other times, children have good opportunities to play independently as activities are easily accessible. This means children can make decisions about their play.

The childminder ensures children have frequent opportunities to play with and explore craft resources. As a result, children develop their creativity as they make pictures and patterns using a variety of paints and collage. Their finished products are nicely presented in a portfolio, which is shared with parents. Children develop their senses as they explore the texture of play-dough and partake in water play, which provide stimulation and tactile experiences. Children have access to information technology equipment. They explore a range of children's education programs on the computer and print activity sheets from their favourite websites, which extends their learning opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual needs are met by the childminder because she is aware of their likes and dislikes. As a result, their favourite activities are continually provided. The childminder knows each child well and is nurturing in her approach, which increases their sense of belonging as they receive lots of cuddles. Children play with an adequate selection of toys, which promote positive images of society. At other times, they learn about differences through meaningful discussions with the childminder, for example, they begin to understand why people use crutches.

Children behave well in the home because they receive lots of praise and encouragement, which increases their self-confidence. Their good behaviour is acknowledged with kind words and rewards, such as colourful stickers. Consequently, children are settled and play happily.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has developed with their parents. The childminder has relevant consents in place and good systems are in place for dealing with complaints and sharing information. For example, food diaries are completed and verbal updates are given each day. This keeps parents well informed of their child's care and routines.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child development and keeps abreast of current issues by reading literature, such as updated guidance on the National Standards. This promotes positive outcomes for children. However, the childminder has not attended mandatory training, which means children are not fully protected. For example, she has not updated her first aid certificate, which is a breach in requirements of registration.

The childminder cares for children in required ratios, which ensure they make progress in all areas of their development. They move freely between the rooms and confidently select their own toys and activities. As a result, children are confident and able to initiate their own play and learning.

Most documentation is in place, such as an attendance record, which records children's arrival and departure times. Records regarding current minded children are recorded in a confidential manner as they are adequately stored. However, past records are not accessible and some details on previously minded children are not retained. This is a clear breach in regulations. The childminder demonstrates an adequate understanding of her responsibility to inform the regulator of any significant changes, such as structural work to the premises. However, she has not kept Ofsted informed of current children on roll. This is a breach in regulations. Overall, the provision does not meet 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: undertake a risk assessment of designated childminding areas; extend equipment to provide comfortable seating for younger children to rest and organise space to promote children's safety.

The childminder has made all areas safe and organised rooms which offer a spacious environment for children to play safely. She has also purchased equipment, such as beanbags and low level furnishings, which are accessible to children. These improvements enhance children's safety and comfort.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint. The complaint relates to National Standard 3 (Care, learning and play), National Standard 6 (Safety) and Annex A (Babies/children under 2). The concerns were originally shared with another agency. A childcare inspector visited the provision on 23 June 2006. Actions were raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider. The provider remains qualified for registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times
- ensure records relating to individual children are retained for a reasonable period of time after the children have left the provision
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters relating to children on roll.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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