

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	311967
Inspection date	02 January 2008
Inspector	Judith Anne Kerr
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 1997. She lives with her husband, adult son and 14 year old son in the Mossley area of Tameside. The whole ground floor, basement and first floor bathroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding. 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 a total of eight children on a variety of placements. The childminder walks to schools to take and collect children. She attends the local adult and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminding environment is warm, clean and very well maintained. The childminder takes steps to ensure daily hygiene routines are maintained. For example, she ensures children remember to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Effective routines and procedures help to minimise the spread of infection amongst children. Procedures are in place

for recording accidents and medication. The childminder has a current first aid certificate so that in the event of an accident she is able to administer the appropriate treatment. However, her first aid box contains items she is not trained to use and this poses a risk to children.

Children are developing their physical skills with a range of suitable activities both inside and outdoors. For example, they get fresh air and exercise during their walks to and from school and visits to the park enable them to enjoy the swings and slide. This helps them to stay fit and healthy.

The childminder is aware of the need to provide a balanced diet and to encourage children to eat healthy foods, to promote their continued growth and development. Drinks are freely available to children throughout the day to quench their thirst. Children's individual dietary needs are agreed with parents and respected at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a well maintained home where safety is given a generally high priority. However, the second floor of the premises which is excluded from the registration is accessible. This poses a risk to children's safety. Toys and resources are varied, suitable and meet children's developmental needs. Procedures are in place so the childminder can carefully supervise children's choices of toys to ensure they are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has taken steps to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment, such as fitting smoke alarms on all four levels of her home and using a fireguard. The children enjoy practising the emergency evacuation procedure which helps them to be aware of what to do in the event of a fire. Children are beginning to take responsibility for keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains boundaries. For example, she ensures the children understand they must use the crossing and wait for her advice before stepping out in the road. The childminder seeks the appropriate consent for outings from parents and identifies those adults who are allowed to collect children.

The childminder has a clear knowledge and understanding about her role in keeping children safe. She has the relevant information and contact details in the event she has concerns about a child in her care and understands her responsibility to record any existing injuries to children. As a result, children are well protected from harm and abuse.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children share warm relationships with the childminder. She spends time on the floor talking and playing with them. She gives children appropriate physical contact, such as cuddles, speaks in soft tones and smiles. As a result they are settled and happy in the friendly atmosphere created in her home. The children benefit from sleep and feeding routines which are consistent with their experiences at home.

The childminder makes good use of local amenities to provide a variety of play environments for the children and to increase their awareness of the world around them. For example, they go for a nature walk or to the library for rhyme time. Visits to local toddler groups allow the children to socialise with other children and play with different resources.

Resources are arranged accessibly which enables the children to make their own choices and develop independence. Young children's early language is encouraged through repetition of words and singing songs, such as five little ducks. Early mathematical concepts are introduced naturally as children play. They count the number of bricks, discuss shapes and colours. Children have opportunities to learn new skills and engage in a range of age appropriate activities which they clearly enjoy. For example, they enjoy making flowers for Mothers day and cards for Christmas. Regular baking activities to make chocolate chip muffins are very popular.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are starting to learn about differences in society and the wider community. They become aware of and accept diversity as they access dolls, books and play figures that reflect the wider world. All children are valued and encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards others. The childminder treats children as individuals, talks to them about differences that they observe and teaches them to treat each other with care and respect. The childminder shows a positive attitude towards the inclusion of all children.

Expectations for children's behaviour are stated gently in a consistent and positive way. Consequently, all children quickly acquire confidence and self respect and are aware of right and wrong. The children behave well, they are happy, confident and learn good manners. The childminder sets realistic, age appropriate boundaries and offers meaningful praise to encourage positive behaviour.

Children benefit from the effective relationships the childminder has developed with parents. The progress of young children is discussed to ensure consistency and continuity of care. Daily informal discussions each day keep parents informed about the provision and their children's activities. All the required documentation is maintained relating to individual children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is promoted by the childminder's good organisation. They feel at home and at ease in a well arranged environment. There is lots of space to play in comfort with resources being organised to promote their independence. This encourages them to make their own choices about their play and learning. The childminder organises her day around the children to ensure that their individual needs are catered for appropriately.

The childminder is committed to providing high quality care for the children. She attends ongoing training, such as safeguarding and updates her first aid certificate to ensure she has current knowledge. All adults with access to the children are suitable and ratios of adults to children are met at all times. This helps to keep children safe.

The required documentation is in place and appropriately completed. It is well organised with confidentiality being respected. This promotes continuity of care for the children and contributes to their health and well-being. The certificate of registration is clearly displayed for parents to see.

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 provider was asked to include children's surnames on the register. The daily register of children's attendance now shows children's full names. This ensures accuracy of information and demonstrates ratios are consistently maintained.

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

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):

- ensure the first aid box contains the appropriate items
- ensure the second floor is inaccessible to children.

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