

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312286
Inspection date	04 December 2007
Inspector	Teresa Ann Clark
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 1996. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged 13 and 16 years. The family live in the Denton area of Manchester. The whole of the ground floor of the home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed rear garden.

The childminder may care for a maximum of six children at any one time. There are currently five children on roll. With parental consent children are taken to local community groups. The childminder's husband occasionally works as an assistant.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Positive steps are taken to minimise the risk of cross-infection to children. The childminder ensures children follow appropriate hygiene practices as part of their daily routines, such as washing their hands before eating. There are suitable arrangements regarding the care of children who become ill in order to prevent the spread of infection.

Children benefit from nutritious foods to promote their growth and development. The childminder prepares homemade meals, for example, spaghetti bolognese. Children look forward to their favourite dishes and the childminder takes into account their likes and dislikes when preparing meals. Fresh fruit and vegetables are on offer daily. Children sit together at the table to enable them to enjoy their meal and one another's company. Children are offered regular drinks throughout the day including water, which ensures they are kept refreshed.

Children engage in a range of activities which promote a healthy lifestyle. Close proximity to the park and walking to and from school helps them to gain a positive attitude towards being outdoors. Children enjoy playing in the childminder's garden and using the large equipment in the park to promote their physical skills. Comfortable furnishings within the childminder's home provide for children's relaxation. However, sleeping arrangements for young children do not fully ensure their safety and comfort; for example, children sleep in pushchairs and car seats.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children freely move between rooms and have ample space to play in comfort and safety. Toys and equipment are of good quality and sufficient to stimulate children's interests. The childminder sets out toys before children arrive to provide a welcoming environment, which allows children some choice. Although the childminder has a good range of toys and equipment to meet the development needs of children under eight years, there is a lack of natural materials to promote children's sensory development.

Suitable precautionary measures help to protect children from coming to harm. For example, there are covers in electrical sockets and a fire blanket is in the kitchen. Children follow clear house rules to avoid accidents, such as keeping small parts away from babies. The childminder ensures children are well supervised and always in her sight or hearing. Children take part in emergency evacuation drills to become familiar with safe practices. There are clear procedures for walking to and from school. Young children hold on to the push chair or wear wrist straps and older children stay within sight and away from the road.

Children's welfare is suitably safeguarded. The childminder has a satisfactory awareness of indicators of abuse. In the event of identifying a child protection concern, she has the necessary contact details and a clear understanding of her role and responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well settled in the childminder's company and home. The childminder offers them appropriate support during activities and forms positive relationships with children. The relaxed atmosphere enables children to feel comfortable in expressing their wishes and desires. Older children are able to rest and relax when they return from school before they choose to either play or complete their homework.

Children take part in a suitable range of activities to foster their learning. They play purposefully and concentrate well. For example, as they create their own collage pictures and complete puzzles. They develop their imagination as they use dressing up clothes and play with dolls, cots and buggies. Good emphasis is placed on encouraging children to learn to identify colours and shape when using different shaped beads to make a bracelet. Children express their creativity as they draw their own pictures, for example, a feelings picture, showing happy, sad and angry

faces. Some of the activities for younger children are in line with the 'Birth to three matters' framework. For example, children enjoy singing songs and taking part in action rhymes, which encourages their communication.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued for their individuality and treated with equal concern. The childminder gathers all relevant information about children so she can meet their needs. Children are learning about the local community through visits to groups and socialising with other childminders and children. The childminder has some resources which show aspects of wider society, but these are limited with regard to disability.

Children are well behaved. Siblings enjoy each other's company and happily play alongside one another. The childminder uses lots of praise and encouragement to boost children's self-esteem. This helps children to feel good about themselves and promotes their confidence. Children learn to act responsibly as they tidy away toys after use and are learning to play together. They develop good manners as the childminder acts as a good role model and encourages them to say please and thank you.

Daily discussion with parents keeps them suitably informed about their child's day and welfare to promote consistency of care. The childminder works in a flexible manner to establish an effective partnership and meet parents' needs. A lovely selection of photographs shows parents the activities children have been involved in whilst in the childminder's care. The childminder informs parents about her complaints procedure, but a system for recording complaints has not been fully developed to share with parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel secure and confidently initiate their own play. As they share experiences together, they enjoy a fun time. The layout of the furniture is suitably organised, enabling children to have sufficient space to play their games and freely express themselves. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate, which ensures children receive appropriate treatment in the event of any minor accidents.

Documentation is suitably organised in separate files to maintain confidentiality. Written procedures ensure her business runs smoothly. The childminder ensures checks are carried out on all adults living on the premises. As a consequence, children are well protected. 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 one recommendation was made. This was to ensure records are kept in detail. The childminder has addressed this issue by ensuring the attendance registers are accurately maintained with dates and children's full names.

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 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):

- review sleeping arrangements for young children to ensure their comfort and safety
- provide activities and resources to promote children's sensory development
- develop resources to promote equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice with regard to disability
- develop the system for recording complaints and share this with parents.

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