

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312282
Inspection date	17 December 2007
Inspector	Susan Magaret Lyon
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 was registered in 1987 to care for six children. She lives with her husband and daughter in a detached house in Tameside. The rooms and areas of the house used for childminding are the lounge, kitchen, downstairs toilet and back garden. There is a pet cat in the household. The childminder provides an out of school service from local primary schools. There are currently seven children on roll, some attend part time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy through satisfactory hygiene routines, such as washing hands after toileting and before food. Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. They are protected from infection through an adequate nappy changing routine and an appropriate exclusion policy being in place which is explained to new parents. Children keep fit and active by visiting the park and going on local walks to feed the ducks. They benefit from fresh air and exercise by walking to and from school each day. Children rest or sleep according to their needs promoting their good health and well-being.

Children are nourished through the childminder giving them healthy foods, such as fruit, cheese and fish. Their health and dietary needs are adequately met through the appropriate recording of allergies and intolerances. Drinks are provided throughout the day keeping their bodies healthy and hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Space and resources are organised to allow children to move around freely and safely. Play areas are bright, welcoming and child-centred. Children use suitable toys and equipment through satisfactory routines for keeping them safe and clean. Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment through the childminder taking several precautions to minimise hazards. For example, socket covers and safety gates are in place. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder ensures suitable measures are in place, such as using straps and a buggy board.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through appropriate discussions about road safety and stranger danger. Although the planned escape route is not practised, putting children's safety at risk in emergency situations. Children are kept safe through close supervision. They are protected because the childminder has a good understanding of her role in child protection and appropriate procedures to follow if needed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the childminder giving them praise for effort and achievement. Children engage in a range of manufactured toys to foster their all-round development. For example, they push the dolls in the buggy saying 'I'm going to the shops.' They competently make three dimensional structures using building bricks and proudly say, 'look, I've made a house.' Children acquire new knowledge and skills through the childminder asking them relevant questions to help them learn. For example, when out and about, she asks 'what colour is the car?' Children are encouraged to make positive relationships through appropriate discussions about sharing and taking turns.

Children are freely able to make choices in their play and pursue their interests, for example, through selecting a favourite toy. Resources are organised to help children become independent learners. Children are happy and settled and enjoy their time at the setting. The childminder treats them with kindness and consideration and as a result, children are motivated and eager to play. Through some art and craft materials children develop their imagination and creativity, thus promoting their sense of achievement and enjoyment. For example, they make birthday cards and sticking pictures to take home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging through a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder. They are valued and made to feel important as the childminder gives them individual care and attention. Children develop some awareness of the needs of others through discussions about playing carefully around the babies. However, a lack of play resources reflecting disability hinders children's awareness of all aspects of equal opportunities.

The childminder ensures all the children are fully involved in the life of the setting through providing suitable activities for all, and allowing more time, where appropriate, for children to achieve and complete tasks. Children behave well. They begin to learn right from wrong through clear boundaries and explanations. Children are cared for by a childminder who works with parents to meet children's individual needs, for example, through obtaining signed consent forms. Their care is enhanced through the daily exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are safe and protected through the childminder's awareness of the vetting of household members. She maintains adequate ratios, thus improving the safety of the children. The childminder organises her time, space and resources to meet children's needs. Children benefit from visits to facilities in the local community, such as the park and library. Furthermore, they are provided with opportunity to mix with other children through attending local adult and toddler groups.

Children's care and well-being is enhanced through the childminder's commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills through further training. For example, she has attended child protection and Foundation Stage training. All required documentation is in place and children's records are kept confidential. However, the registration certificate is not displayed limiting the information available for parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure accidents are recorded confidentially, provide resources promoting equality of opportunity and ensure the safety of the garden. Accidents are now recorded on a separate page for each child, play resources showing different cultures and religions are in place, and hazards have been removed from the garden. These improvements further enhance the care and safety of children attending the setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection Ofsted has received one complaint relating to National Standard 2: Organisation concerning minding over the registered numbers. Ofsted investigated and raised actions. Ofsted are satisfied that the provider has taken appropriate action to address the concerns. 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 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):

- provide opportunity for children to practise an emergency escape plan
- provide play resources reflecting all aspects of equal opportunities
- ensure the registration certificate is displayed during the hours of childminding.

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