



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY152101
Inspection date	20 September 2005
Inspector	Mary Kilroy

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 has been registered since 2001. She lives with her partner and four children aged 6, 10, 12 and 16 in South Manchester. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and the upstairs bathroom and toilet are used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and currently minds two children aged under five on three days of the week and two children aged over five after school, one full and one part time. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. She attends local carer and toddler

groups.

The childminder holds the Certificate in Childminding Practice level 3 and Quality First Assurance level 3 certificate. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to understand about being healthy from helping to wipe tables before meals, wiping noses and hand washing. Gentle effective prompts from the childminder throughout the day remind them of how to keep healthy when completing personal care routines. The childminder uses these opportunities to talk admiringly of differences in skin tone, hair texture and eye colour. These positive ways of helping children to value differences promotes their emotional well-being and a sense of belonging. Children know that food dropped on the floor is "dirty," and that it should not be eaten because it would make you poorly. Children benefit from and remain healthy because the childminder has effective written daily cleaning routines. They are constantly evaluated and ideas for improvement are added to a written summary sheet. Children are learning about being healthy from observing the childminder's thorough routines and by helping with small cleaning tasks. Children remain healthy as the childminder observes them constantly and sensitively for signs of illness or delays in development that may need further investigation. They benefit from the good policies and procedures that are in place to prevent the spread of infection. Children are helped to stay healthy as the childminder takes all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of infection. The childminder does not care for children with infectious illnesses unless it is with the agreement of all parents and contacts parents immediately if their child has symptoms. She is able to care for children with coughs, colds and minor injuries and has written information on additional care for them in areas such as adequate rest, extra fluids, administering and recording medicines carefully and ensuring that they are signed by parents. Children have their own flannels, toothbrushes and towels to prevent the spread of infection.

Children enjoy a healthy diet of main meals and snacks provided by the childminder. They are offered a selection of foods that are high in calcium and vitamins and contain adequate amounts of protein and carbohydrates to ensure that children are healthy. A two week menu which is regularly reviewed gives children variety and choices. Children are offered at least five portions of fruit and vegetables daily. Recipes used for children are low in fat, salt and sugar. Children stay healthy because the childminder has a thorough understanding of safe storage and handling of food. The childminder encourages children to be interested and enjoy preparing food, cooking it and trying new recipes. Children enjoy happy, sociable mealtimes. Ample fresh drinking water is always available and offered to children who are too young to ask. Babies benefit and are healthy as under two's individual patterns for rest and meal times are planned around the daily routine.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities and fresh air on a daily basis. They have

regular visits to local parks where the childminder encourages physical activity through ball games, cricket and hide and seek. Children enjoy outdoor play in the garden and access various types of equipment for large play. The childminder provides a range of tri and bicycles and scooters with safety helmets.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a relaxed, comfortable family home. They access toys freely and with confidence. Children's work and photographs are displayed and they have good self esteem. The childminder recognises when younger children display signs of needing a sleep and her intervention ensures that they are able to play safely. Good use is made of the space available and children can move around freely and safely when they self select toys.

Children are able to choose from a wide range of age appropriate toys and resources that are clean and safe. They are purchased to meet safety standards and are checked and cleaned daily. Children remain safe as age appropriate safety equipment prevents access to areas such as the kitchen to younger children. They regularly go in with the childminder when the cooker is not in use to help themselves to drinks and choose fruit. Older children gain independence by accessing drinks, snacks and bathroom facilities as they wish and in safe surroundings. Children are benefiting from the childminder's use of natural materials and she is starting to build items for a treasure basket. To further improve the sensory experiences for children the childminder is recommended to build on established good practice by increasing the range of natural materials using Birth to three matters as guidance.

Children stay safe as the childminder has a high level of awareness of safety issues inside and out of the home. They learn about keeping themselves safe through the daily routine, activities and discussions. The childminder uses reins in highchairs and pushchairs and when walking outside with toddlers who are not yet walking steadily. Children understand that moving traffic is a danger and why they must hold onto the buggy or hold hands. The childminder talks to them about road safety and children take turns to press the button and say when the green man shows. They then check again for no moving traffic before crossing. Young children are beginning to understand where it is safe to cross.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the child protection procedures and has recently updated her training. She ensures that her information is always current and updated and parents sign a "safeguarding children" form which outlines responsibilities of parents and childminder before a placement commences.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual needs are met as the childminder knows their backgrounds and allows for their changing interests. She provides a rich, varied, flexible and

stimulating environment where children feel valued and are confident to take the play activity in whatever direction they choose. Children enjoy using natural materials and treasure baskets. Baby is included in all activities, the childminder talks and explains to him. He responds verbally and with smiles. Toys and equipment are accessible to children. Children make connections from having child sized and toy emergency vehicles and dressing up. Young children are beginning to understand their own feelings and those of the baby and discuss happy and sad. The childminder introduces good, rich language. Children make exceptional progress because the childminder has an excellent understanding of children's likes, dislikes and interests. All children's progress is celebrated by whole family. The baby enjoys pointing to noises such as birds singing in the garden and the childminder opens the window, explains and shows him what it is. Baby responds with delight. He is confident that he will get a response. All children are making very rapid progress. The childminder always responds to babies vocalising and answers them during play. They are learning early communication skills as she answers them using warm tones and eye contact.

Children are helped to make very rapid progress as the childminder encourages positive attitudes to learning and education. All children are encouraged to be interested in the world around and in activities that the older children are doing in school. The childminder helps them to achieve by making learning fun, playing mental arithmetic games, listening to reading and sometimes helping with homework if parents and child wish. Children settle well in the childminder's home. She has an excellent settling in procedure which is tailored to each child's individual needs.

The childminder welcomes all children into her care and respects and admires their individuality. They are encouraged to express their thoughts, feelings, opinions and ideas and to accept that others may feel and think differently. Children access an excellent range of toys and activities that meet all their needs. They are provided with lots of experiences of the world around them as they visit local toddler groups, parks and meadows to collect seasonal natural materials. Children enjoy a wide range of experiences that develop all of their senses, such as cooking, collage, using natural materials, treasure baskets and all types of music, instruments and dance. Children have built excellent relationships with one another as the childminder encourages them to form friendships, value differences and to always consider each other. Children progress by taking part in activities that allow practice of sharing, turn taking and co-operation.

Children make rapid progress in a calm and caring environment. The childminder is interested and enthusiastic in her approach to play activities and in what children say and do. They are learning about colour, shape and numbers through games, songs, activities and skilful questioning by the childminder. Progress is monitored daily and notes and photographs shared with parents to include them in their child's day.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's self esteem and confidence is good as the childminder uses opportunities

in the children's personal hygiene routines to talk admiringly of differences in skin colour and texture of hair. Children learn to value and respect differences as the childminder provides toys and activities that truly reflect society and show only positive images of all members of the community that make it up.

Children are encouraged and invited to join in all activities regardless of gender or ability. They are supported by the childminder using praise and encouragement and celebrating their achievements to foster independence. The childminder ensures that children progress by monitoring their development carefully and observing closely. She has a written statement on special needs which is shared with parents. Parents know that every child is valued and helped to progress and children benefit and have consistency of care from the childminder and parent sharing regular information. School age children are given a copy of a publication called "Me, me, me" to complete. This encourages them to think about their own needs, likes and dislikes.

The childminder uses praise and encouragement effectively and consequently children feel safe to try out new skills, ask for help and help one another. The childminder is consistent and uses only positive methods of managing children's behaviour. Children understand the clear boundaries and simple rules in her home and are well behaved and happy. They understand what is expected of them and help to tidy up, take turns and wipe tables. Stimulating and varied activities provided by the childminder ensures that children are never bored and helps them to behave well.

Parents questionnaires give excellent feedback on the service provided. They especially value the types of activities provided, children's progress and the good written and photographic feedback provided by the childminder. The questionnaire is constantly updated and the childminder uses evaluation from these to constantly improve all aspects of the provision. Children benefit from the good relationships that have been built between parents and childminder. Babies are settled and happy as they benefit from routines which are consistent with their home experiences.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit through the childminder's consistently high standard of record keeping and sharing information with parents. Written records are constantly updated and written information and ideas for improvement kept on every standard and shared with parents. Parents questionnaires are used to ensure that all children's individual needs and parents wishes are met. Parents value the first class written and photographic feedback shared daily with them. The excellent feedback enables them to share in their child's day and children profit from enthusiastic adult support which successfully fosters their confidence and learning.

The childminder sets dates throughout the year to self evaluate in addition to the ongoing and continual assessment. She constantly undertakes training on an extensive range of subjects to improve the quality of care, safety and protection for young children. Since the last inspection she has undertaken training and has gained the certificate in childminding practice level 3 and quality first assurance level three.

She has updated first aid training and attended short courses on creative ideas for childcare, Birth to three matters, working with parents, mind your business, child protection for childminders, support childminding course, policies and procedures workshop and the new inspection format presentation. She works as a support childminder and currently passes on her outstanding practice to five new and registering childminders. She is in the process of joining the local community childminding network.

All persons over sixteen are cleared as suitable to be on the premises. Children are relaxed and secure in the well organised home.

Overall the provision meets the needs of all children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to keep a record, signed by parents, of medicines given to children. She has provided this and improved all written policies and procedures to a very high standard. She has undertaken a wide variety of training to enhance her provision. This has contributed to children's safety and has enhanced all aspects of their care.

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 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):

- further improve the sensory experiences for children and build on established good practice by increasing the range of natural materials, using Birth to three matters as guidance.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and*

concerns about inspectors' judgements which is available from Ofsted's website:
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