

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312289
Inspection date	08 February 2008
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 1993 to care for four children. She lives with her husband and two children in a semi-detached house in Tameside. The rooms and areas of the house used for childminding are the lounge, dining room, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and back garden. There are no pets in the household. There is currently one child on roll. The childminder provides an out of school service from local primary schools.

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. They are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. Children are adequately protected from infection through an exclusion policy being in place which is explained to new parents. Furthermore, the use of disposable wipes and paper towels, and an appropriate nappy changing routine prevent the spread of germs. Children sometimes partake in physical play in the garden to keep fit and active. They enjoy dance and action games indoors to promote their physical health. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise through daily walks to local

parks and shops. Children rest and sleep according to their needs, promoting their good health and well-being.

Children are nourished through healthy foods, such as fruit, sandwiches and yoghurts. Their health and dietary needs are met through relevant discussions with parents and the recording of allergies and intolerances. Children learn about healthy eating through some appropriate discussions about foods that are good for them. 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 adequately organised to allow children to move around freely and safely. Play areas are bright, welcoming and child-centred due to small, colourful furniture. Children use suitable toys and equipment due to satisfactory routines for keeping them safe and clean. Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment through the childminder taking some precautions to minimise hazards. For example, socket covers and safety gates are in place. However, the use of climbing equipment on hard surface in the garden puts their safety at risk. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder has put adequate safety measures in place, such as using reins and holding hands.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through some appropriate discussions about stranger danger and road safety. Children's safety needs are met whilst on the premises due to the childminder's awareness of fire precautions, although the emergency escape plan is not practised. Children are kept safe through close supervision. They are adequately protected because the childminder has satisfactory 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 good.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the childminder giving them lots of praise and encouragement. They engage well in a range of age-appropriate activities to foster their development. For example, they enjoy role play when pushing the dolls in the buggy. They focus well on completing puzzles and demonstrate a great sense of achievement by shouting excitedly when they have finished. Children learn through the childminder skilfully asking them questions to make them think, such as 'what do tigers do?' They develop knowledge of colours and numbers well, for example the childminder encourages them to count the bricks when building towers. 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, by selecting a favourite activity. Resources are suitably organised to help children become independent learners. Children are very happy and settled because the childminder supports their play well. Children are eager to play and join in activities through the childminder's enthusiasm. For example, she introduces new ideas and encourages the children to have fun. Children are interested in natural textures through exploring feathers, acorns and leaves. The childminder treats children with great kindness and consideration, as a result, children are content and confident learners. Through a good range of art and craft materials, children develop their sense of imagination and creativity, thus promoting their sense of achievement and enjoyment. For example, they make sponge paintings and leaf prints 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. Children are valued and made to feel important as priority is given to gradually admitting children into the setting through visits with parents so they can settle in at their own pace. Children develop awareness of the needs of others through appropriate discussions about playing carefully around the babies. However, limited play resources reflecting equal opportunities hinders their awareness of the wider world.

The childminder ensures all the children are fully involved in the life of the setting through changing or adapting the way play is provided to suit all levels of ability. 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 their individual needs. For example, by obtaining signed consent forms for various aspects of care. 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 children. The childminder organises her time, space and resources appropriately to meet children's needs. Children benefit from visits to facilities in the local community, such as parks, shops and library. Furthermore, attending local toddler groups provides them with opportunity to mix with other children.

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 safeguarding children and Early Years Foundation Stage training. All required documentation is in place and up-to-date. Children's records are kept confidential. 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: organise children's details so confidentiality is maintained; organise toys so children can select them easily; and to obtain parents consent for emergency medical treatment. Parents can now only see their own child's entry when signing documentation. Toys are provided on the lounge floor in containers so children can easily access them. Parents written consent is in place for emergency medical treatment. These improvements further enhance the care and safety of children attending the setting.

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):

- ensure climbing equipment is provided safely in the garden
- increase play resources reflecting all aspects of equal opportunities

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