



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307384
Inspection date	28 November 2005
Inspector	Susan Janet Lee

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 for approximately 22 years. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a semi detached property in Cadishead, Salford.

The hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen on the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. The side garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently caring for three children. She is able to take and collect

children from the local primary school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is well maintained. The childminder exercises good hygiene practices to minimise the risk of cross infection. However, the first aid box is not appropriately stocked to deal with accidents effectively. Children demonstrate their developing understanding of personal care routines as they wash their hands after using the bathroom and before eating.

The childminder works with parents according to the wishes regarding the provision of food and drink. She provides snacks and meals that are well balanced and include lots of fruit and vegetables to aid children's growth and development. Children are developing an awareness of healthy eating; a child talks about her favourite fruit being strawberries and grapes. Children are able to quench their thirst independently as drinks are accessible to them and replenished by the childminder as needed.

Children are able to rest according to their needs and they have opportunities to enjoy and develop their physical skills as they play in the garden and visit a local park on a regular basis. A child recalls a recent trip to the park. She describes her enjoyment when she played on the slide and came down fast. She uses her hand to demonstrate her rapid descent down the slide.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

There is lots of space available for children to move around and play in comfort. Children are able to move around from one room to another to extend their play. For example, a child is playing in the lounge; She then moves into the kitchen and sits at the breakfast bar to draw a picture. There is a good range of furniture available to allow children to play, rest and eat in comfort. The childminder provides a wide selection of resources to meet the needs of the children being cared for. The childminder checks the toys on a regular basis to ensure they are safe; minimising risks to children.

The childminder has a good awareness of safety and most areas of the environment in which children are cared for are safe and secure. She supervises the children well and is watchful and vigilant; as a result, children are able to play safely and independently. Children are developing an awareness of safety in the home and on outings. For example, they understand that they need to be careful in the kitchen, they sit down when eating and hold the banister when using the stairs. A child talks about holding the childminder's hand when they are on outings and stopping at the edge of the road to make sure no cars are coming before they cross the road.

The childminder has an awareness of child protection issues and procedures to help

safeguard children's welfare; however, she has not informed parents of her responsibility as a registered person with regards to child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children engage well in a range of age appropriate activities. For example, books, puzzles, fuzzy felts, small world resources, threading toys and colouring. The childminder also utilises local amenities such as the park, going to the canal to feed the ducks and visits to parent toddler group to widen children's experiences and gives them opportunities to socialise with their peers. The activities are well balanced to help children progress in all areas of their development.

The childminder spends time playing and talking to the children. She sits on the same level as the children as they play and interacts with them to extend their language, support mathematical thinking and encourage imaginative play. For example, the childminder reads a story to a child and she introduces the names of animals. A child spends a long period of time making a face with felt shapes. The childminder uses positional words to describe what the child is doing. A child holds a long piece of felt and imagines it is a snake, she wriggles the material and makes a hissing sound; the childminder pretends to be frightened.

The children are developing good hand and eye co-ordination as they make faces with small pieces of felt and thread bobbins onto a long lace.

The childminder shares warm, caring relationships with the children, who are happy and settled in her care. The childminder has a good understanding of children's needs and meets these needs well.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Trips out to local amenities help children to develop an awareness of their local community. The childminder is successful in helping children to value each others similarities and differences through discussion during play. For example, the childminder looks at a book with a child and she talks about different colours of skin, eyes and hair. However, there are no resources available that promote positive images of gender or disability and this limits the opportunities that children have to learn about the wider world.

The childminder treats the children with care and respect. She encourages the children to use please and thank you. For example, a child says she wants "more drink". The childminder gently reminds the child to say please. The child then asks for a drink using please. Consequently, children are developing an awareness of being polite. The childminder praises children's efforts and achievements. For example, a child shows the childminder a necklace she has made. The childminder talks to the child about her creation and admires her work; helping to raise children's confidence

and self esteem.

Children develop a good sense of belonging as they are able to make decisions. For example, what they would like to play with and what they would like to eat for a snack. The children are developing good self assurance as the childminder listens to the children and value what they say. The children are confident to make their needs known.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a valid first aid certificate; ensuring she has up to date knowledge of what to do in the event of an accident.

The children's record of attendance shows that ratios are maintained to promote children's care. The childminder organises space, resources and her time well to meet children's needs.

Most documentation is in place. The childminder maintains individual children's records to ensure confidentiality. Documentation is well organised and securely stored.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection recommendations were agreed in relation to health, supervision, child protection and documentation.

The childminder has a an exclusion policy for sick children; ensuring children are not exposed to infection. She has improved safety as she ensures that children are now supervised at all times when playing in the garden. The childminder has developed an awareness of child protection issues. Documentation is now better organised for easier maintenance and reference.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can 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 the first aid box is appropriately stocked
- ensure low level glazing is made safe or inaccessible to minded children and ensure parents are made aware of the childminder's responsibility with regards to child protection
- extend resources that promote positive images of disability and gender
- ensure written parental consent is in place for transport for all minded children and develop systems to record existing injuries, incidents and complaints.

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: www.ofsted.gov.uk