

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	503598
Inspection date	17 June 2008
Inspector	Judith, Mary Horsfall

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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2001. She lives with her husband and adult son in Castleton, Rochdale, Lancashire. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and children access the upstairs bathroom. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder supports children with learning difficulties. The childminder uses her car to collect children from school. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children aged from five to under eight years at any one time and is currently minding two children after school on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is inadequate.

Children's health is compromised because the childminder does not understand the procedures for giving and recording medication. The first aid kit does not hold the necessary contents to deal with accidents or illnesses. The childminder does not have the necessary consent forms for emergency medical advice and treatment which puts the children at risk in case of illness.

or an accident. This issue has been raised during previous inspections. The childminder is not promoting the good health of children and is in breach of the National Standard 7: Health.

Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves healthy because the childminder encourages them to wash their hands after playing outdoors, before eating and after using the toilet. Children can rest and sleep on the sofa should they become tired during the session. Children have access to outdoor play in the garden where they take exercise, using basic equipment such as skipping ropes. They also visit the local park to use the larger play equipment.

Children benefit from healthy, nutritious food which is cooked each day from fresh ingredients, including plenty of fruit and vegetable. Parents are consulted about food requirements to ensure dietary needs are met. Cold drinks are kept in the fridge and drinking water is always available on demand.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is inadequate.

Children are welcomed into a clean, well maintained home with garden areas suitable for outdoor play. However, the house is not kept secure as the front door is not locked when the minded children are present which puts children at risk. There are insufficient toys and equipment to create a stimulating environment for the children. This concern has been raised at previous inspections and not addressed. Only one small box of plastic toys is on offer to the children and there are no books or suitable reading materials to encourage children's interest in the written word. The lack of toys and play materials restricts the children's ability to develop their emotional, intellectual, social, creative and physical skills.

Children's safety is compromised because the childminder has not taken reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children are minimised. For example, air rifle style guns are accessible to children in a room which is registered for children's use. Accident and pre-existing injuries records are not maintained, cleaning materials are accessible to children and working smoke alarms are not provided on each level of the house.

Children are not fully protected in cases of child protection concerns because the childminder has out of date information. Although she is aware of basic procedures she does not have current contact details for relevant agencies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are generally settled and confident in the childminder's company. They are welcomed into the home and offered a drink with a snack such as a biscuit or a piece of fruit. The children have access to a poor range of toys and play resources but say they enjoy playing outdoors and carrying out exercises accompanying a television programme. Children benefit from the childminder helping them with home work and reading books from school.

The childminder is aware of children's individual needs and preferences and works with parents to promote children's welfare. Children benefit from being given timely praise for their efforts and achievements. The childminder only minds the children for a short period of time each day and during this period, children are given a cooked meal.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have limited opportunities to learn about other the wider world and local communities as the childminder has no resources nor offers activities to promote equality of opportunity. Children will be challenged should they use offensive language or behaviour.

The childminder is aware that some children may have additional needs and takes steps to ensure that the welfare of each child is promoted in partnership with parents. For example, she passes on messages to parents from school and informs parents of any concerns. Children are generally well behaved and polite, with the childminder reminding them to say please and thank you when necessary. Children are encouraged to behave with care and consideration for each other and suitable strategies are used to deal with any inappropriate behaviour.

Parents are given verbal feedback each day to ensure they are informed of children's welfare. Children are generally protected because the childminder has a basic understanding of the complaints procedure and parents are informed that they can contact the regulator, Ofsted, should they have any complaints.

Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are broadly protected because the childminder is aware that all adults over the age of 16 years in the household must undertake the necessary checks. Children benefit from having adequate space to move freely, both indoors and outdoors. The childminder holds the necessary first aid qualification but has not undertaken any further training since registration. Suitable adult to child ratios and registers are maintained as required.

However, the childminder demonstrates an insecure knowledge of the National Standards and the requirement to maintain the necessary documentation, which compromises the children's safety and well being. Records that were requested in advance of the inspection were not available and generally paperwork was disorganised, incomplete or missing.

Overall, the provision does not meet the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, four actions were raised. These related to record keeping, not having a current first aid certificate, lack of knowledge of the complaints procedure and failure to display the registration certificate. All these issues have been satisfactorily addressed, improving the safety of children.

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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children
- request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment
- keep a written record of medicines given to children
- ensure the premises are secure and minimise hazards to children
- provide a suitable range of furniture, equipment and toys to meet the developmental needs of children from 5 to under 8 years
- ensure that all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible and available for inspection at all times
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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