

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY357461
Inspection date 06 August 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 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 2007. She lives with her husband, step father and two children aged seven and five years old in the Fitton Hill area of Oldham, Lancashire. All of the downstairs area, including a bathroom, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family have three small dogs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five years all day, and one child over five years before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder helps organise a local parent and toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and well-being is generally fostered by the childminder. Children are gaining a clear understanding of the importance of good hygiene and personal care. The childminder reminds children about washing their hands after using the bathroom and before meals, plus

they have free access to wipes to clean themselves after eating or messy play. Procedures, such as wearing disposable gloves at nappy changing time and having single use small towels for hand drying are in place to protect children from cross infection. The childminder has a clear policy for caring for sick children. However, the consent forms for emergency medical advice and treatment are not fully in line with the wording in the National Standards.

Children have access to fresh air and exercise on a daily basis with visits to the park, countryside or playing in the garden. By using a wide variety of equipment, they develop their hand to eye coordination and physical skills, such as balancing and manoeuvring around obstacles. This helps children develop confidence and positive attitudes to physical exercise. Children are able to rest and sleep in accordance with their individual needs and routines.

Children's individual dietary needs are met, as these are discussed with parents and details of specific dietary needs are recorded. Children are provided with regular drinks and nutritious snacks and the childminder holds a healthy eating award. Children are encouraged to try new foods and have developed a liking for fruit and enjoy a selection of fresh fruits, such as strawberries, tangerines, melon and banana each day. Food preparation areas are well maintained and the childminder holds a level 2 Food Hygiene certificate.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled in the childminder's home where they can develop their independence as they freely access equipment and toys stored at their level. The premises are clean, warm and welcoming with plenty of good quality displays of children's art work in evidence. There are also photographs of household members and pets to ensure children develop a sense of belonging. A wide range of play resources and toys are available to the children and this is further supplemented by regular visits to the local toy library, with the children making their selections in advance from the catalogue.

The childminder gives priority to keeping children secure indoors and outside, ensuring the external doors are locked at all times. Regular fire drills develop children's awareness of emergency evacuation procedures. A number of safety precautions including gates, socket covers, visitors' record and a fire blanket have been put into place to protect children. However, the bathroom door cannot be opened from the outside which could result in the children becoming distressed should they be locked in by accident.

The childminder is aware of her responsibility to protect children in her care from abuse. However, her current procedure has some omissions and she has inconsistent knowledge of child protection procedures. This limits her ability to reinforce and safeguard children's safety and welfare in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and is likely to inhibit her ability to act quickly in reporting concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are content and enjoy their time with the childminder. They actively participate in all activities. These include, making objects from play dough, small world, dressing up, home corner, baking, playing in the sand, water play and outdoor physical activity in the garden. Access to a broad selection of purposeful and interesting activities provides opportunities for children to develop their natural curiosity as learners. They are eager to talk about their recent

experiences and home life, and take pleasure in looking at photo albums and scrap books of their work.

The childminder demonstrates skill in asking children appropriate questions and prompts to extend vocabulary and learning further during story time. Children, including the youngest ones, are engrossed in the books and enjoy snuggling up for reading and developing their own stories with the childminder's children. Observations are completed by the childminder and added to each child's individual book which is available for parents. Children are confident in making their own decisions in what they choose to do, and eagerly participate in the activities of the day. They generally cooperate well with their peers during these activities and positively support each other, and are learning to help tidy toys away at the end of the session.

The childminder is well aware of each child's needs and preferences and speaks with knowledge of their individual preferences. She is attentive to their needs and acts promptly to assist them when required. Information is shared with parents at introductory sessions and records are taken to ascertain children's routines, favourite toys, likes and dislikes before they begin their regular placement.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals as the childminder meets their needs well. Children have good access to suitable toys that promote positive images of diversity. The childminder is aware of accessing further resources through the local toy library. Children benefit because the childminder is confident in explaining to them why people in the world are different and how we value everyone as individuals. Children's curiosity is respected and activities further develop children's learning about the wider world.

Children receive suitable support because individual needs are identified and met ensuring that children are broadly content and settled. The childminder is sensitive towards inclusion, the care of children with learning difficulties and disabilities and the importance of working with parents and when appropriate with external agencies. The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of the use of positive strategies for managing behaviour which helps children learn to understand behaviour boundaries. A well written policy supports children's behaviour and house rules are formulated with children. Children receive praise and encouragement for their efforts and achievements which helps promote their confidence and self-esteem.

Partnership with parents and carers is good. Children's individual care needs are discussed with parents; this helps children to settle in and feel comfortable. The childminder has a warm and friendly approach and works well with parents to meet the needs of children. Information is shared daily and parents are kept informed about their child's time at the setting. A clear complaints procedure is in place and given to parents and the childminder understands her role in the complaints procedure. Parents are very positive about the childminder saying she is 'brilliant' and that the 'children love coming to the house'.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a child friendly and homely environment. Their welfare, care and learning are satisfactorily promoted. The childminder's practice is appropriate in meeting the needs of individual children. Space is sufficiently organised to enable children to experience a

variety of play activities and follow their familiar daily routines. The childminder has a clear understanding of child development and also organises a parent and toddler group on a voluntary basis.

Their continuity of care is satisfactorily promoted through the information exchanged and regular discussions with parents. Records are securely and confidentially stored. Adult to child ratios and attendance registers are well maintained to protect children. Policies and procedures are shared with parents.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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 the bathroom door can be opened from the outside
- develop knowledge and understanding of safeguarding children practices and ensure the safeguarding children procedures include reporting procedures for allegations of abuse which are alleged to have taken place while the child is in the care of the childminder
- ensure wording for emergency medical advice and treatment consent forms complies with the National Standards.

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