

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY360413
Inspection date	03 July 2008
Inspector	Sheila Iwaskow
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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her adult daughter in the Wythenshawe area of Manchester. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. This comprises of the lounge, dining area and kitchen. Bathroom and toilet facilities are available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a pet dog.

There are currently two children on roll who attend on a variety of placements. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Outdoor play is well promoted within the setting. The back garden is beautifully laid out and a gazebo has been erected allowing children to play outdoors irrespective of the weather. Children thoroughly enjoy the time they spend outside and, through the range of resources that are kept outside, are able to consolidate many aspect of their learning. For example, children enjoy completing mathematical puzzles, playing imaginatively in the tent, making a

meal in the play house and taking the dolls for a walk. A varied range of resources are also available to promote children's physical skills, such as wheeled toys and hoola hoops. Children also learn about the benefits of exercise to promote a healthy lifestyle, as walking to and from school is incorporated into the daily routine.

The environment in which the children are cared for is warm and clean. Good health and hygiene routines are followed throughout the home to reduce the risk of contamination and cross-infection. For example, individual wipes are used to clean children's hands, some children clean their teeth after meals and good nappy changing routines are in place. The childminder also talks to the children about germs, helping to appreciate the underlying concepts of good hygiene practices. A detailed sick child policy is in place and includes procedures to be followed if a child becomes unwell whilst in the childminder's care. Minor injuries are treated appropriately as the childminder holds a first aid certificate and a first aid box is within easy reach of the childminder. The childminder displays great sensitivity to children who do not like dogs and ensures that her pets are restricted to an area of the house not used for childminding purposes.

Drinks are available to children at all times to ensure that they remain hydrated. Meals provided include healthy options, such as fruit, vegetables, and sandwiches made from ham, roast beef or cheese. The childminder takes time to ask children what they would like to eat before preparing meals.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Positive steps are taken to keep children safe. Safety equipment, such as a fire blanket, cupboard locks and smoke alarms are securely in place. However, the broken glass panel in the back door poses a risk to children's safety. Children are well supervised as they play and entrances and exits to the premises are secure. The childminder is aware of how to get out of the house in the event of a fire and has practised these procedures with the children. This ensures that they are confident of what to do in an emergency situation. When out walking with the childminder, young children are restrained in buggies and those who are walking are encouraged to hold on to the childminder's hand or to the buggy. Regular discussions about road safety teach children how to keep themselves safe when they are out and about.

There is ample space for the children to move around and play in comfort. Some examples of children's art work are displayed in the kitchen, which gives children a sense of belonging within the childminder's home. Comfortable furniture is available to allow children to rest, and sleeping children are carefully monitored by the childminder to ensure their safety. A balanced range of resources are available to support children's learning. However, play materials for younger children are not yet fully developed. Most resources are stored for easy access to allow children to make choices. Toys seen are safe, clean and in good condition.

The childminder has a secure understanding of the signs and symptoms of abuse. She understands the procedures she should follow if she has a professional concern about a child. The childminder has completed training on safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

There are warm and affectionate relationships between the children and the childminder. As a result children feel happy and secure. The childminder is sensitive to the needs of children. For

example, when children are unsure about a visitor they look to the childminder for reassurance. She gently picks them up and offers comfort. The childminder has a good understanding about what the children in her care like and can do. She keeps detailed observations of their progress and attainment.

The childminder encourages mathematical and language development as they play. For example, children are asked to identify the colours of the rainbow and find the numbers in the jigsaw. Children confidently show the inspector their favourite books and proudly tell her that they can see a panda in the picture, which is black and white. Younger children happily join in with older children's play and firm friendships are being formed. Kitchen utensils, such as pots pans and wooden spoons, are made available to provide children with opportunities to explore their senses and planting seeds in the back garden allows children to observe growth.

Children enjoy designing models using construction blocks and playing with small world toys. Musical instruments, some of which are home made, are available to encourage children to make sounds and children enjoy singing songs as they help the childminder tidy toys away.

Good use is made of local amenities. For example, children find out about animals as they visit a local farm and visits to the library foster their love of books. Regular outings to playgroups and tumble tots allow children to experience alternative play environments and socialise with other children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn about the wider world as they taste food from other countries and access a suitable range of resources depicting diversity. This means that the children are developing a positive attitude towards others. The individual needs, preferences and circumstances of the children are known and acted on by the childminder, ensuring that children's needs are met in practice. Through discussion the childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards inclusion.

Children behave well. The childminder acts as a positive role model to the children and is kind and courteous towards them. She recognises the importance of using age appropriate strategies to manage their behaviour. However, older children are not provided with explanations to help them understand the consequences of their behaviour. The frequent use of praise helps to promote children's confidence and self-esteem.

The childminder fosters good working relationships with parents and recognises the benefits in working in partnership with them. She provides parents with copies of her policies and procedures, which give them an appreciation of how her childminding service works in practice. Verbal feedback at the end of the day keeps parents informed about how the children have spent their day. Any messages from school are diligently passed on, ensuring effective communication between parents and the school which their children attend. Questionnaires are also given to parents, allowing the childminder to evaluate her practice and act on any suggestions given. Parents are happy with the care afforded to their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

As a newly registered childminder, she has completed all mandatory training. The childminder recognises the importance of accessing further training to support her ongoing professional development and to keep her childcare practices up-to-date.

Settling in procedures are implemented to ensure that new children are happy in her care. An accurate record of children's hours of attendance is maintained. The childminder recognises the importance of complying with her conditions of registration at all times and her certificate is clearly displayed as a source of information for parents. Space within the childminder's home is organised to provide children with a varied range of activities.

All aspects of documentation are in place, of a good standard and organised to respect confidentiality.

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 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):

- ensure that the broken glass panel in the back door does not pose a risk to children's safety and further develop the resources available for younger children
- provide explanations for older children so that they understand the consequences of their behaviour.

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