

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY365810
Inspection date 25 June 2008
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 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 2008. She lives with her husband and daughter aged one, in a semi detached property in Tyldesley, a suburb of Wigan.

The lounge, kitchen dining room and toilet on the ground floor and the bathroom and spare rear bedroom on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a fully enclosed rear garden 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 one child. She is able to take and collect children from the local primary school and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children stay healthy because the childminder actively promotes and exercises good hygiene practices to minimise the risk of cross infection. For example, the premises are maintained to

a high standard of cleanliness and the childminder provides children's individual hand towels. The children learn about personal care routines as they wash their hands before eating and after using the bathroom. The written sick children's policy ensures safe and effective measures are in place when children are ill.

The childminder has a good understanding of the benefits of healthy eating. She provides a menu that is well balanced and wholesome to aid children's growth and development. For example, snacks include fresh fruit and meals are home cooked and include dishes, such as cottage pie, leek and potato soup and tuna pasta bake. As a result, the children are well nourished and develop an awareness of healthy eating. Snack time is a relaxed and enjoyable occasion. The childminder sits and chats to the children, who are able to eat at their own pace.

The childminder follows children's individual daily routines and this helps to provide a secure and familiar environment. The children have lots of opportunities to exercise in the outdoor environment and enjoy and develop their physical skills. They play in the garden with a growing range of outdoor play equipment enabling them to learn about their bodies and develop control and coordination. The children also visit the park, feed the ducks and take trips to a local farm. All these activities contribute to the children's good health and physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm and homely environment. There is lots of space available for them to move around and extend their play. The childminder organises space effectively to accommodate separate active and quieter activities. The children are able to play rest and eat in comfort as there is a good selection of equipment and furniture available to meet their needs. The childminder provides a wide range of resources that are age and developmentally appropriate for the children in her care. She rotates toys to add variety and also utilises the local library to further enhance children's play experiences. The childminder cleans and checks resources on a regular basis to minimise risks to children. All items are of good quality and appear in a safe and clean condition.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety. Written risk assessments and a daily safety check ensure that the environment in which children are cared for is safe and secure. The childminder keeps children safe on outings. She ensures the children are safe in the car and she takes a mobile telephone with the children's contact details, a first aid box, spare clothes and drinks to cover any eventuality. The children are able to play safely and independently because the childminder is vigilant in supervising them as they play. She encourages the children's understanding in keeping themselves safe through daily routines, discussion and explanation. For example, the children are becoming aware of the house rules and the childminder reminds them to be careful when they climb the stairs.

All required documentation is in place and the childminder has a secure understanding of child protection matters and procedures. As a result, children's welfare is effectively safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The daily routine meets children's needs and promotes their welfare. The children have access to a wide range of age appropriate resources to help them develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. The atmosphere is happy and relaxed and the children are happily

engaged and occupied. Toys are stored at child height in the lounge. The children are able to freely choose toys, enabling them to initiate own ideas, make choices and develop independence. The children also benefit from activities outside the home as the childminder utilises local amenities, such as the park, a soft play centre, a local farm and parent toddler group. These activities help to widen children's experiences and give them opportunities to socialise with their peers.

The childminder has begun to plan activities and observe the children. She records the observations of the children at play in their individual daily diaries to chart their development and also to keep parents informed about their children's activities.

The children build a stacking tower and take it in turns to add the next block. The childminder talks to the children about the colour of each block. The children stand up as the tower grows higher. When the tower is completed, the children knock it to the ground and giggle. The children develop hand eye coordination and their fine manipulative skills as they complete simple inset puzzles and enjoy being creative and making collage pictures. The children build up a repertoire of songs as they sing along to nursery rhymes. They join in with the actions and are able to combine their movements to produce a string of movements in time to the songs.

The childminder dedicates time playing and talking to the children. She sits at the same level as the children as they play and supports and guides them well in their play and exploration. The childminder shares close relationships with the children, who are content and secure in her care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children develop an awareness of their local community through trips out to local amenities. They have access to a good range of resources that promote positive images of other cultures, gender and disability to help them gain an understanding of our diverse society. The childminder provides an inclusive environment and she supports and guides the children well helping them to reach their full potential. Photographic documentation shows the children celebrating their birthday and this helps them to feel special. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude towards children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The written behaviour management policy refers to the use of age and developmentally appropriate strategies to manage children's behaviour. The childminder acts as a good role model. She treats the children with care and respect, is calm and sensitive to children's needs and adept at encouraging the youngest children to share and take turns. Consequently, the children receive a clear message of what is expected of them. The children receive lots of encouragement and praise. They enjoy the positive attention and develop confidence and self-esteem.

The children develop a good sense of belonging and they move around with ease and confidence. They are able to make decisions as they choose what to play with and what they would like for their snack. The childminder encourages the children to take responsibility as they help to tidy away the toys. The children clearly enjoy their time with the childminder and they thrive on her interaction and attention.

The childminder has developed a comprehensive portfolio and welcome pack which includes information about the childminder and a full range of written policies and procedures. This is

shown and discussed with parents at the introduction meeting. Parents are given copies of the policies and they sign to confirm they have understood. This helps to forge good working relationships and a shared understanding from an early stage. The childminder maintains detailed daily diaries for the children to ensure that parents are kept informed about their children's daily routines and play activities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has regard for children's well-being as she attends training to further develop her childcare practices. She has a valid first aid certificate ensuring she has up to date knowledge of what to do in the event of an accident or minor injury.

The record of children's attendance shows ratios are maintained to promote children's care, learning and play. The childminder organises space, time and resources well to meet children's needs. Effective arrangements are in place regarding cover in emergencies. The childminder works with another registered childminder in such situations. Parents have been informed of these arrangements and have given written parental consent.

The childminder has developed a full range of written policies and procedures which work well in practice to positively promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. However, the complaints procedure does not include Ofsted's address. All required documentation is in place and is well organised for easy reference. The childminder maintains children's individual records to ensure 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 the complaints procedure includes Ofsted's address.

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