



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY305400
Inspection date	10 October 2005
Inspector	Joan Isabel Madden

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband in a house in Sale within walking distance of shops, parks, pre-schools and schools. The couple have a dog.

The conservatory, dining room and kitchen are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

There are four children on roll aged from 14 months to 3 years who attend on a part time basis.

The childminder is an experienced and qualified nursery nurse. The childminder attends the local childminder and toddler groups on a regular basis. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and welcoming house where there are effective procedures to help the children learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day and are taught to wipe their noses. Practices such as the children having their own flannels help to prevent cross-contamination and protect the children from infections. There is an effective nappy changing routine in place. The dog and his food are kept separately to the children to prevent them having unsupervised contact with him. The children regularly play in the garden and visit the local field and park allowing them to enjoy fresh air and develop a healthy lifestyle. The children rest and sleep according to their needs. The childminder is suitably qualified in first aid to enable her to appropriately treat children with minor injuries. All documentation relating to medical emergencies, administration of medication and accidents is correctly maintained ensuring children are dealt with appropriately.

The children enjoy a range of nutritious and healthy meals and snacks that are provided in agreement with the parents. The children have access to water and juices throughout the day. There are good procedures in place to record the children's dietary needs, likes and dislikes and the parent's preferences as regards food and drink. Parents are well-informed of their children's daily intake of food, ensuring continuity of care.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel welcome in the secure environment that includes a dedicated playroom. The children benefit from using the dining room for quieter activities and resting. Space is well-organised to meet the children's needs. Toddlers who are beginning to walk have inviting toys arranged at their height around the room, to encourage them to walk from one activity to the other. The children have easy access to a wide range of high quality toys and materials that are clean, safe and well-maintained. Resources are organised into labelled boxes to encourage the children to access resources for themselves and tidy them away. They particularly enjoy playing with the wide range of interesting musical instruments that reflect many cultures. Generally, there are sufficient baby equipment and toys to meet the needs of the very young although there is no suitable cot.

Generally the children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment that is suitable for them. The childminder carries out ongoing

comprehensive risk assessments and takes steps to reduce any identified hazards. A safety issue relating to low-level glass has been identified. The children are encouraged to take steps to ensure their own safety, such as, tidying up toys at regular intervals to avoid anybody tripping.

Children are well protected as the childminder has a secure knowledge of how to follow child protection procedures from her experience of working in a day nursery. She has a written policy in place, is able to recognise signs of abuse and knows who to contact if she is concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children are happy and settled, helped by the good settling in procedure. They benefit from being cared for by a qualified and highly experienced nursery nurse who provides them with a balanced, worthwhile and varied day. The children benefit from both adult led and child initiated activities. They particularly enjoy playing with malleable materials, painting and colouring. They experience stimulating activities that are challenging and enable them to acquire new knowledge and skills, such as learning to swim. The children have a very good relationship with their childminder helping to promote their confidence. She spends a lot of time interacting with them successfully meeting their individual needs. They are supported in their play and comforted as they settle down to sleep.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are conscientiously cared for by the childminder who works well with parents to meet their individual needs and ensure they are included fully in the life of the setting. Children have very good relationships with their childminder helping to promote their confidence. The childminder ensures she is aware of children's individual needs by liaising with parents and recording any relevant information. She is able to spend plenty of time playing with children ensuring she meets their individual needs. The children are learning to make choices and take decisions as they choose from a wide range of toys and equipment. The children enjoy celebrating each others' festivals helping them to become aware of the wider society, develop their self-esteem and respect differences in one another. Children settle down to sleep listening to a tape of lullabies from around the world.

The children are well-behaved. They are encouraged to be kind to one another and work harmoniously with others. Children are successfully learning to understand responsible behaviour as the childminder talks to them about appropriate behaviour.

There are good relationships between the childminder and parents helping to provide the children with continuity of care. The parents speak very highly of the provision. They are well-informed and are provided with a comprehensive range of policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Thorough vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by the childminder who has a good knowledge and understanding of child development. Her qualifications and previous experience underpin the good care of the children. She is conscientious, committed, organised and has a high regard for the well-being of all children. The children feel at home and at ease with the well organised environment. The children benefit from a well planned and structured week that includes attending preschool groups and recreational facilities. They take part in adult-led and child-initiated activities. The comprehensive range of policies and procedures is used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. They are shared regularly with parents to keep them well informed about the provision and their children's experiences. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. The provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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 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):

- provide the very young children with a cot
- ensure all low-level glass is safe.

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