



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310340
Inspection date	03 June 2005
Inspector	Julie Firth
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 has been registered since 2002. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 11, 8 and 4 in the Partington area of Trafford. Her husband is a registered assistant. Overnight care is provided.

The whole of the house is used for childminding which includes the playroom, lounge, conservatory, dining /kitchen area and all the upstairs bedrooms. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children and a

maximum of six children when her assistant is present. There are currently eight children on roll. The childminder takes the children to the local childminding group and parks. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have the opportunity to develop control of their bodies, for example young children who can sit up unaided are encouraged to reach the toys and helped to walk. They develop co-ordination and balance as they climb on the slide and crawl around the play gym. A good selection of outdoor play equipment in the childminder's garden, regular visits to the park and toddler play gym foster the under three's and older children's physical development.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after playing outside and using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination. There are effective procedures in place to prevent the spread of infections and protect children's health.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of a healthy diet. Meals provided are well balanced and nutritious, supporting children's physical well being and development. Children make choices about their snacks and have access to drinking water and fresh fruits and vegetables at all times. Meal times are a relaxed social occasion where the children enjoy their food. The childminder takes account of the wishes of parent's and the children's choices and dietary needs are recorded and respected at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a well maintained home where the childminder priorities safety. Children play in a safe and secure environment where thought is given to making the whole of the premises safe with effective risk assessments in place. The childminder and her assistant liaise with the fire service to provide overnight care and ensure safety for children. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through discussions with the childminder about road safety and house rules.

There are a variety of toys and equipment which are easily accessible and meet safety standards, allowing children to make choices and develop their independence. Children select their own toys from a wide range of well organised resources stored in baskets and units at a low level in a designated playroom. Children's safety is enhanced by the careful monitoring of toys and activities to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Care is taken to ensure that babies do not have access to toys which may cause them harm and older children

learn to keep small items out of reach.

Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate and has a secure understanding of child protection procedures in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children share warm relationships with the childminder and her assistant. Children receive good support and supervision as there are regularly two adults present. The children benefit from familiar routines and a structured day which help them feel secure. The childminder offers children appropriate physical contact in the form of cuddles, speaks in gentle tones and as a result they are happy and confident in her care. Children confidently settle with the childminder on arrival. They relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at local groups.

Children are engaged in a range of age appropriate activities such as building bricks, crafts, dressing up, imaginary play in the home corner and outdoor play. Children have the opportunity to be creative as they participate in music and dance and collage. They are taken to the park to play football. Children are developing good reading and writing skills through computer work and informal activities in the mark making area. Children become independent as they choose between a variety of toys, books and activities, which appeal to all. Babies communication skills are developed by the childminder responding to their babbling and facial expressions.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good range of activities and resources such as celebrating divali and the use of the computer to print out information, to extend children's knowledge of different cultures. Planned visits to the toy library improve children's awareness and understanding around disability and equality.

Children are kind and considerate towards each other and the older children offer attention to the younger children. The children benefit from the warm friendly relationship the childminder develops with parents. Information is exchanged at the end of the day, providing continuity and consistency of care for children.

Children behave well and respond to the boundaries set by the childminder. A reward star chart promotes positive behaviour. They are involved in making their own ground rules. Children are kept well stimulated and have time to relax and be active. The children enjoy each others company taking turns and form strong relationships with the childminder's own children. Children's efforts and achievements are celebrated and displayed in the play room which promotes their confidence and self esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced through the childminder's commitment to improving the quality of care for children and to support her professional development she attends training and is part of the Childminding network.

Space and resources are organised effectively to enable children to participate in a range of activities within her home and make choices about their play and learning. She works closely with her assistant to organise her day and help children feel secure and supported in their play. A clear timetable is in place to facilitate taking and collecting children from local primary schools and nurseries. Planning is in place; however this is not regularly reviewed to indicate how children make good progress in all areas of their development.

All records and documentation are in place and of a good standard which contributes to the safety and well being of children being cared for. These are shared regularly with parent's to keep them well informed about the service and their child's activities. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

The previous inspection recommended that the childminder continues training to enhance quality childcare. The childminder is now involved in the local Sure Start group and is part of the Childminding Network.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- review the planning of activities to include how children's developmental needs are met, for example by using the Birth to Three framework.

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