



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312290
Inspection date	26 May 2005
Inspector	Susan Magaret Lyon

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 1985. She lives in a four bed roomed semi detached property with her husband and daughter in the Audenshaw area of Tameside.

The family have no pets.

Minded children have use of the lounge, kitchen and purpose built play room. There is access to outdoor play in the fully enclosed rear garden of the home.

There is a bathroom on the ground floor.

Minded children are taken to the local park, shops, nursery and parent and toddler group.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children. The registration does not include overnight care. There are currently eight children on the register, some of whom attend part time.

An out of school service is provided from Aldwyn Primary school. The childminder is a member of the National childminding association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children have a clear understanding of good hygiene because the childminder explains the importance of hand washing after toileting. Children are provided with individual face cloths and towels preventing cross infection and helping them to stay healthy. Young children benefit from effective nappy changing routines, helping them to be healthy and minimise infection. The spread of infection is minimised through the exclusion of children who may be infectious, thus making the environment healthy for children.

Children enjoy a range of physical activities daily, in the garden or local park. They have a broad range of play equipment to encourage physical activity, e.g. bats and balls, footballs, hoola hoops and tennis rackets. The childminder understands the importance of outdoor play for keeping children healthy.

Young children rest and sleep according to their individual needs and routines which are agreed with parents. Children's individual dietary needs are met in accordance with parents wishes. Children can access drinks at any time. Children have a good understanding of healthy eating. They are involved in the planning and preparing of nutritious food, such as their own pizzas with a variety of toppings, in a fun way. Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Young children can safely and confidently explore the surroundings due to the effective organisation of space enabling children to play and move around freely. Children access a purpose built play room for play activities which provides a child centred and stimulating environment for children. Children feel valued and welcomed into the setting because of this.

Children have access to outdoor play space which is fully enclosed and secure. The childminder considers potential hazards inside and outside the house and takes

appropriate action where needed. However, some dangerous substances in the kitchen need making safe/inaccessible to children.

Children are secure in the setting due to clear procedures in place for the safe collection of children. Children are closely supervised both at the setting and when on outings to ensure their safety.

Fire safety equipment and procedures are in place, and the evacuation plan is practised. As a result, children are aware of what to do in an emergency.

Children learn about keeping safe when on outings through clear boundaries and explanations given to children regarding staying together and crossing roads safely.

They are protected in line with the area child protection committee guidance as the childminder has a good understanding of her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of interesting and stimulating toys and activities which promote their learning and development. Children are content and settled in the environment. Young children have free choice of toys and can easily access a wide range of age appropriate play equipment promoting their confidence and sense of belonging.

Children learn about colours and shapes from time spent with the childminder talking and discussing and helping them to play with appropriate equipment, such as shape sorters, building bricks. Older children gain knowledge of numbers and counting from accompanying the childminder on shopping trips and counting tins of food.

Children's imagination is developed through a good range of play equipment including dressing up clothes, play kitchen, tent making. This also enhances their social skills through learning to share, taking turns and cooperating with each other.

Children learn to be confident and independent because the childminder gives them age appropriate tasks to do. They garden, set tables, wash toys and are rewarded with praise, helping the children feel good about themselves through a sense of achievement. Children are encouraged to be skilful communicators through the childminder using speech and language and singing to the children using tapes and music.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated equally and their individual needs are discussed with parents. The childminder ensures all children can take part in activities appropriate to their needs and abilities by providing appropriate equipment. The childminder is effective in promoting an inclusive provision for all. A child with a disability, currently attending,

is settled and secure and confidently accesses all activities and toys.

Children learn about respecting differences through discussions with the childminder, however play resources reflecting equal opportunities need increasing to promote children's understanding of the wider world.

Children have a good understanding of acceptable behaviour due to clear boundaries and explanations which are given to children to help them learn right from wrong.

Children's care is enhanced by the successful partnerships that the childminder has with parents. She shares information daily about how children have been and what they have done. The safe care of the children is assured through the use of detailed consent forms.

Children are helped to settle into the setting through visits arranged by the childminder, with and without parents, to help the child become familiar with the childminder and the surroundings at their own pace.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is well organised to provide children with consistent routines, regularly trips out and a range of interesting and stimulating home based play experiences. As a result children appear settled and secure.

Children learn to mix with other children through attendance at adult and toddler groups.

The care and welfare of the children is enhanced through the detailed and effective documentation, which is made available to parents. Children are able to enjoy their time at the childminders and participate in the activities due to her effective organisation of resources and space.

Information is shared with parents daily to keep them informed about all aspects of the service provided. Children benefit from effective working relationships between the childminder and parents.

Children's care is enhanced, and they are made more secure, due to the childminder having an appropriate first aid certificate and keeping her knowledge current through training. Overall, the childminder meets the needs of the children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has arranged further training regarding child protection, obtained some resources reflecting equal opportunities and reviewed safety in the garden, thus helping children to stay safe and develop an understanding of the wider world.

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):

- make dangerous substances in the kitchen safe/inaccessible to children
- increase stock of play resources reflecting equal opportunities.

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