



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 312167
Inspection date 27 March 2006
Inspector Shirley Leigh Monks-Meagher

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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her husband in a terraced house in the Denton area of Tameside. She has been registered for 20 years. The areas of the house used for childminding are the lounge, dining room, kitchen, upstairs toilet and back garden. There are 7 children on the register, 3 of whom are over 8 years. There is a pet dog and two cats in the household. The childminder helps to run an adult and toddler group from the local school.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a warm, clean home where simple hygiene routines help to minimise cross infection. Children are encouraged to keep themselves healthy and are learning to wash their hands at appropriate times, such as before eating and after the toilet. An effective sickness and exclusion policy protects children from illness. Up-to-date first aid training ensures children receive appropriate care in the event of an accident. However, the childminder does not record accidents consistently. This means children's well-being is compromised.

Children develop an awareness of healthy eating. They enjoy a variety of nutritious snacks, including fresh fruit, which promote their growth and development. Children choose water or milk to keep themselves refreshed and hydrated.

Children enjoy activities which help them to develop physical skills and a healthy lifestyle. They walk to and from the local school and play in the rear garden with plenty of equipment which helps them develop large physical skills and refine the control of their bodies.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from a well maintained environment where the childminder pays generally good attention to safety both indoors and out. However, accessible equipment in the bathroom poses a risk to children's safety. The childminder is vigilant and recognises the need for a balance between safe limits and freedom. She makes sure safety measures are in place, such as a fire guard and a safety gate on the stairs. Exit doors are locked with the keys easily accessible, but out of children's reach, therefore allowing an easy evacuation in the event of an emergency. Children are beginning to understand how to keep themselves safe on the roads. They wait at the kerb for the all clear or cross with the aid of the lollypop person.

There is a sufficient range of toys and resources available, which are suitable to the children's ages. Toys and equipment are maintained to a good standard and comply to safety regulations, minimising risks to children. The childminder has a basic understanding of her role in protecting children from harm and neglect, although is less confident about the procedures to follow in the event of such concerns. Consequently, children's welfare is not fully safe-guarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The children's welfare is promoted and their individual needs are met through activities that include opportunities for social, emotional, physical and intellectual development. The relaxed atmosphere enables children to settle quickly. The children are happy and have a positive relationship with the childminder. She speaks

to them in warm tones and offers reassurance and comfort through appropriate physical contact. Children enjoy support and attention from the childminder which increases their sense of security.

Children spend their time purposefully. For example, younger children use construction kits to make a house whilst older children make a model village using recycled materials. The children are developing their initiative because they are encouraged to solve simple problems, such as 'how will you make the door?' Children's understanding, language and vocabulary are extended as the childminder talks about what they are doing. She introduces colour, number and terminology, such as longer and small as she plays along with the them. However, the childminder has little understanding of the Birth to three matters framework, which impacts upon children's overall development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder speaks positively to children, effectively using encouragement to support their efforts and foster their independence. Good behaviour is acknowledged, celebrated and praised appropriately. As a result, children are gaining confidence and a positive self-image. The childminder supports children to understand and maintain simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. This means the children reflect on their actions and are learning right from wrong.

The childminder has an adequate understanding of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory play. Children are treated with equal concern. Children's care benefits from a good working relationship between the childminder and parents. They settle well because she works closely with parents to meet individual needs. She verbally shares information about her setting and practices with parents but does not give them enough information relating to the complaints procedures. Therefore, children's welfare is not fully protected.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care and welfare is maintained because the childminder keeps records and documentation which is shared with parents. Most legally required records are in place, organised and stored securely. Children enjoy their time with the childminder because they have sufficient space to participate in the available activities.

Children are confident and independent because they are able to freely choose, lead and develop their own play whilst being supported and encouraged by the childminder. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to increase her resources to reflect

our diverse society. She has increased her resources slightly and children have some play materials and books which positively reflect race, culture, gender and disability. Children are learning about similarities and differences in a positive manner.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted received concerns in May 2005 regarding the following: National Standard 6: Safety, National Standard 7: Health and National Standard 11: Behaviour.

Ofsted investigated these concerns by undertaking an unannounced visit on 10 May 2005. Actions were raised regarding National Standards 6: Safety and 7: Health. A satisfactory response has been received. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- maintain a consistent record of any accidents that occur to children
- make hazardous equipment in the bathroom such as, razors and scissors, inaccessible to all children. Improve understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern about a child and ensure relevant contact details are in place
- improve knowledge and understanding of Birth to three matters guidance
- improve the information shared with parents relating to the complaints procedure and set-up a system to record any complaints, action taken and the outcome of any investigation

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