



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY102489
Inspection date	10 February 2006
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 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 and three children in a semi detached house in Bury. She was registered in 2002 to care for five children and is at times assisted by her husband. The rooms and areas of the house used for childminding are lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs toilet and back garden. The household has pet rabbits which are kept in the garden. There are currently six children on roll, some attend part time. The childminder provides an out of school service from local primary schools.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn the importance of personnel hygiene through daily routines, such as washing hands after toileting and before food. They are protected from infection through an exclusion policy which is explained to parents. The home is clean and hygienic and children learn the importance of good hygiene after touching and handling the pet rabbits.

The childminder provides healthy meals and snacks for children, for example, fresh fruit and yoghurts. Drinks are readily available for children throughout the day, improving their health and well being. Children learn the importance of healthy eating through discussions about foods that are good for them.

Children stay healthy through partaking in physical activities in the garden using age appropriate play equipment, such as, slides and footballs. They regular walk to and from school and enjoy indoor games, such as, hopscotch and hide and seek. Children rest and sleep according to their needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment. The childminder takes some precautions to minimise hazards to keep children safe, however, the storage of dangerous substances and items in the kitchen puts children at risk. The play areas are bright and welcoming and space and resources are organised to allow children to move around freely and safely.

Children use suitable and safe toys and equipment. They are kept safe on outings because the childminder has put adequate safety measures in place, such as using reins and harnesses. Children learn to keep themselves safe through discussions about road safety and stranger danger.

The childminder keeps children safe through close supervision. Her awareness of fire precautions contribute to children's safety whilst on the premises through opportunity to practice the emergency escape plan, however, the lack of a smoke alarm on the upper floor compromises their safety. Children are protected because the childminder has an understanding of her role in child protection and appropriate procedures to follow if needed.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through the childminder giving them praise. They engage in a range of age appropriate play activities to promote their all

round development. Children acquire new knowledge and skills from time spent with the childminder, for example, developing young children's awareness of their facial features, such as, 'Where is your nose?'

Children are encouraged to make positive relationships through partaking in cooperative games to help them learn to share and take turns. They freely make choices in their play and pursue their interests, such as selecting a favourite toy. Resources are organised well to help children become independent learners.

Children are happy and settled because the childminder gives them individual care and attention and provides close supervision. Through a range of art and craft materials children develop their imagination and creativity, thus promoting their sense of achievement and enjoyment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging through a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder. They are valued and made to feel important through photographs and art work being displayed in their own scrapbooks which they compile themselves. Children begin to be aware of the needs of others through the childminder talking to them about playing carefully around the babies and younger children. However, children lack opportunities to become aware of the wider world through limited play resources and activities reflecting different cultures, disability and gender.

The childminder ensures all the children are fully included in the life of the setting through taking into account their individual needs and level of ability, adapting the way play is provided and physically helping children to join in. Children behave well and begin to understand responsible behaviour through clear boundaries and explanations.

Children are cared for a childminder who works with parents to meet their individual needs, for example by obtaining signed consent forms. Children's care is enhanced through the daily exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are safe and protected through the childminder's awareness of the vetting of household members. She maintains adequate ratios, thus improving the safety of children. The childminder organises time, space and resources to meet children's needs.

Children benefit from regular visits to facilities in the local community, such as the local park and library. Their care and well being is enhanced through the childminders commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills through further training.

All required documentation is up to date, shared with parents and kept confidential. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her awareness of child protection, include signatures and dates in accident and medication records and increase her knowledge, understanding and resources with regard to equal opportunity issues. The childminder has attended child protection training, accident and medication records include dates and parents signatures and the childminder has begun to obtain some play resources reflecting equal opportunities, such as play figures. She also encourages children to be sensitive and respectful of differences through discussions and explanations. These improvements further enhance the care and safety of children attending the setting.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since April 2004 Ofsted have received one complaint. This related to Standard 2, concerning possible over minding. Following an unannounced visit to investigate, the registered person 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):

- ensure dangerous substances and items in the kitchen are safe or inaccessible to children
- increase play resources reflecting equal opportunities
- improve fire safety of the premises.

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