



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	312255
Inspection date	10 April 2006
Inspector	Kay Margaret Armstrong

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 has been registered since 1993. She lives with her partner and 4 children aged 14, 12, 3 and 6 months. The family live Dunkinfield area of Cheshire, close to local schools, parks and shops. The children have access to the ground floor of the property, which consists of a play room, sitting room and dining room. The bathroom is on the first floor. Children have access to outdoor play in the fully enclosed rear garden of the home. The family have a pet rabbit which is kept in the garden.

The childminder is registered to provide care for four children and currently there are

three children on roll.

The childminder gains support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Hygiene procedures are implemented to ensure that children are cared for in a warm, clean, home. Daily routines promote children's understanding of good hygiene practices, minimising the risk of cross infection. Children confidently take themselves to the bathroom and are reminded to wash their hands by the childminder, which fosters their independence and self-help skills.

Children benefit from a range of activities that contribute to their physical growth and development. Daily outings ensure children have plenty of fresh air. Regular visits to the park and playing in the rear garden provide the opportunity for them to run around, swing, climb, slide and play football. These experiences help children to develop physically and gain control of their bodies, whilst having fun.

The childminder discusses and agrees children's dietary requirements with parents. She considers children's likes and dislikes when providing food and drink. The childminder provides children with a good range of healthy meals, which are nutritious and homemade. Children's awareness of healthy eating is further promoted, as snacks of fresh fruit are provided. These contribute to their well-being and physical development. Children remain hydrated as they are able to access drinks at all times.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children benefit from a well maintained, homely environment where the childminder prioritises safety. Potential hazards are recognised and minimised, as a result children are able to play freely and safely. The childminder is vigilant and has a good recognition of the need for a balance between safe limits and freedom. She makes sure safety measures are in place, such as safety gates on the kitchen door way. Exit doors are locked with the keys easily accessible, but out of the reach of children, therefore allowing an easy evacuation of the home in the event of an emergency. However, although the childminder has an emergency evacuation procedure, in place this has not been practiced with the children, which compromises their safety.

There is an extensive range of resources available, which are suitable to the children's ages. Toys and equipment are maintained to a good standard and comply with safety regulations, minimising risks to children. Children are sufficiently protected because the childminder has the required knowledge and documentation in place to ensure that children's welfare is safeguarded. She has good understanding of her

role in protecting children in line with the local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children's welfare is promoted and their individual needs are met through the range of 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 very positive relationship with the childminder. Children have lots of support and attention from the childminder, which increases their sense of security.

The childminder provides a wide range of activities for the children. They regularly attend toddler groups and activity sessions at the library, where they are able to access different play environments and equipment and are able to socialise with other children. The childminder spends time playing and interacting with the children who are engaged, interested and occupied. They enjoy playing board games, completing jigsaws, playing imaginatively, dressing up, and dancing to music. Children are able to access resources freely, promoting their choice and independence.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder speaks very positively to children, using encouragement effectively to support their efforts and foster their independence. Good behaviour is acknowledged, celebrated and praised appropriately. As a result, the children are confident and have a high self-esteem. Children are comfortable in expressing their needs, which the childminder recognises and meets appropriately. The childminder supports children to understand and maintain simple house rules, such as sharing and taking turns. As a result, the children behave well and play co-operatively.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal-opportunities and anti-discriminatory play. There is an extensive range of resources available that reflect our diverse society. These help to promote children's knowledge and understanding of the world around them. Consequently, children are becoming aware of difference and developing a positive attitude to others.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's organisation. As they are welcomed into her home, which is clean, safe and warm. All records and documentation required by the regulator are in place. The childminder has developed a range of written policies which she shares with parents, keeping them well informed; this

contributes to the continuity of care for the children. However, the childminder has failed to keep the regulator informed of changes her to circumstances.

The childminder ensures that the children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort. Play materials are organised effectively to promote children's independence, encouraging them to make choices about their play and learning. The children enjoy a range of different play opportunities away from the home, such as visits to local groups and the library.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure: confidentiality is maintained with regard to accident and medication records; first aid training is kept up-to-date; to increase awareness of child protection.

All these recommendations have been addressed. Records relating to accidents and medication are kept in a manner that supports confidentiality. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate in place and she has a satisfactory awareness of the issues surrounding child protection. These improvements ensure children's health, safety and well-being are promoted.

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):

- ensure the regulator is kept fully informed of any changes

- improve fire safety by practicing the emergency evacuations procedure with children.

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