



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY274446
Inspection date	22 May 2006
Inspector	Christine Fraser Turner

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 was registered in 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged 14 and six in the Elton area of Bury. She uses the whole of the ground floor and the bathroom on the first floor for childminding. There is a fully enclosed yard for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five and two children over five before and after school. She also offers care to two children over eight. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The family has a dog, two guinea pigs and goldfish as family pets.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are mainly well protected from infection and are well taken care of if they have an accident or become ill because the childminder follows satisfactory health and hygiene procedures. Parents are informed through the childminder's written policy about not sending children when they are ill. However, the childminder does not follow good practice when changing nappies.

Children understand that they wash their hands to get rid of germs. They wash their hands before meals, after using the toilet and after helping to clean the guinea pigs cage. However, children do not wash their hands each time they stroke the dog.

Health and dietary needs for children are met well because the childminder works effectively with parents before their child starts to attend. Children receive regular drinks. Older children are able to help themselves from their sports bottle and request refills if the bottle is empty. Babies are offered regular drinks throughout the day but are not able to access drinks independently.

Children are beginning to learn about healthy eating as they discuss what foods are good for you. They are also beginning to learn that exercise is good for you during their regular visits to the park.

Individual needs for rest and sleep are met well. Children's individual sleep routines are followed, including any special requests, for example, a comfort blanket. Older children are able to relax on comfortable furniture in the lounge and watch television after a busy day at school.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure, mainly safe indoor and outdoor environment. Most aspects of safety are met. However, the smoke alarm on the first floor was not in working order and the travel first aid kit contained items other than recommended items. Children are able to access their toys easily in the child friendly playroom and move freely between the lounge and playroom.

Children use suitable and safe equipment because toys are checked visually by the childminder and any broken items removed.

Children are kept safe on outings as older children learn how to cross the road safely, for example, using the lollipop lady and looking both ways before crossing. Younger children benefit from the childminder using age appropriate equipment, such as wrist straps and reins. Children are learning to keep themselves safe through following the boundaries set by the childminder whilst on outings and not talking to strangers.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role in protecting children. Parents and carers receive written information on the childminder's role in safeguarding children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle easily and are happy in the setting. They make themselves very much at home as they arrive back from school, taking their coats off and beginning to play or to watch television. Children relate well to each other as they play together, for example, with the play dough. They enjoy a wide range of interesting activities, such as growing seeds and making pizzas. They enjoy learning through interesting topics, such as how things grow and a previous topic on butterflies. They enjoy regular outings during school holidays and visit places like a farm and park where children can see animals.

Children under three benefit from the childminder introducing new ideas from a course on Birth to three matters which she is attending at the moment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for because the childminder works effectively with parents and carers to meet individual children's needs and ensure they are fully included in the life of the setting. Children are beginning to understand how important it is to be kind to each other and play well together. They understand the rules of the household and the reasons for them. Children are able to make their own choices for play from a suitable range of readily accessible resources.

Children benefit from resources and discussion which help them value diversity, for example, visiting the library to complement books already available to children.

Parents and carers are kept well informed about their child's day through daily discussion. They receive written information from the childminder about her policies and procedures.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a suitable adult who understands her responsibility in keeping children safe. They benefit from the childminder attending further training to keep up to date with changes, for example, Birth to three matters. Space is well organised to enable children to move freely in the childminder's home.

Records to support children's care are in place and generally well organised.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Children benefit from improved security of the premises because the childminder ensures that the front door is always locked.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- improve nappy changing procedures
- ensure the smoke alarm on the first floor is in working order
- ensure the first aid kit for childminding only contains recommended items.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk