



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY317019
Inspection date	30 March 2006
Inspector	Angela Rowley

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 registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged 1-, 9- and 12-years-old. They live in a semi-detached property in a small village in the Wigan area of Greater Manchester. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding except for one bedroom. There is an enclosed area for outside play.

The childminder may care for a maximum of five children at any one time. Currently, she is caring for one child under 12-months-old each day.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health and medical needs are suitably promoted as the childminder has adopted appropriate procedures to establish and document babies routines, sleeping and feeding patterns, allergies and medication. She provides care in a clean home where she ensures children are not put at risk of infection because she implements appropriate hygiene practices, such as the use of anti-bacterial spray to clean the nappy changing mat between uses.

Children are active and use their developing physical skills in a variety of ways, which promote a healthy lifestyle. Regular outings to toddler groups and soft play centres encourage vigorous activity. Children also gain some awareness of healthy eating because they are provided with nutritious snacks and regular drinks.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and well maintained home, where they move around freely and safely. The childminder takes appropriate action to reduce most significant hazards, although she does not routinely re-evaluate risks when changes occur within the setting.

Children independently select activities from an extensive range of good quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Suitable explanations help children understand how to help keep themselves safe.

The childminder safeguards and promotes children's welfare and has all the required procedures and documentation in place. For example, the childminder holds a current first aid certificate, a basic food hygiene certificate and has attended child protection training. She has a secure understanding of child protection in line with local procedures and knows what to do in the event of concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and relaxed in the childminder's care because she is quick to identify and respond to their individual needs and they are provided with consistent routines, which gives children a sense of security. Babies are very much at home as they freely and confidently travel through the ground floor of the home in the baby walker, accessing toys of interest to them under the watchful eye of their carer.

The childminder makes the most of opportunities to take children out, which

broadens their experiences considerably. For example, they visit baby sign classes and sometimes go swimming. Children sing and dance to music on a regular basis. They occasionally take part in activities which develop their sensory awareness, such as painting with their hands. However, they have fewer routine opportunities to explore new textures and learn through their play as the childminder is not yet using the Birth to three matters framework to guide her practice.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals and develop a clear sense of belonging in the childminder's care. Suitable arrangements are in place to establish information about children's needs, which the childminder ensures she uses to provide consistent routines. This consistency helps children develop clear understanding and expectations and prevents challenging behaviour. Children develop early awareness of diversity as they dance to songs from around the world and see many positive images of disability and different ethnic groups.

Relationships with parents are satisfactory. The childminder makes some good attempts to provide a professional image by providing parents with access to a basic range of policies, which helps inform them about how the setting operates, although they do not receive information about how to make a complaint. Some positive systems are in place, which help ensure clear communication with parents and aid continuity of care for children. For example, the completion of daily diaries keeps parents fully informed about their child's day. However, gradual admission processes have not yet been fully established, which impacts on gaining a wide knowledge of children's backgrounds before placements commence.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The needs of the children who attend are met. The childminder ensures she keeps all required documentation and attends appropriate training, which helps ensure children's needs in relation to health and safety are promoted. She effectively evaluates her training needs and takes appropriate action to ensure these are met. The quality of children's care is maintained as the childminder uses her standards document routinely to evaluate her provision. She also uses appropriate sources of advice and guidance.

Children feel at ease within the childminder's care because the home is very child friendly and made welcoming for them. She uses her clear space effectively to meet children's different play and care needs.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 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.

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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 children's safety by regularly reviewing risks to them ensuring that appropriate action is taken to minimize these
- increase the range of activities to promote the development of babies by using, for example, the Birth to three matters framework
- improve the way that partnerships are developed with parents by increasing opportunities for both parties to share information about children's backgrounds and care needs before and during the placement.

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