

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	301308
Inspection date	05 October 2007
Inspector	Carol Ann Dixon
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 has been registered since 1997. She lives with her adult son in the Lees area of Oldham. Minded children have use of the lounge, dining kitchen, upstairs bathroom and the front garden.

Children are taken on outings to the library and local parks and play centres. An out of school service is provided from local primary schools.

The childminder is registered for six children and currently minds five children aged under eight years. Children attend full time, part time or for before and after school care.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children thrive because the childminder follows sensible procedures and practices which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. Children gain an understanding of hygiene and a desire to become increasingly independent in their personal care as a result of the

childminder's adult support. They are helped to understand that washing their hands before meals helps keep them healthy. However, they share a hand towel which presents a risk of cross infection. Children make use of the front garden area at the setting where they enjoy riding on bikes and scooters and, therefore, benefit from regular fresh air and exercise. They also make use of local parks which gives further opportunities for outdoor play.

Children begin to understand about the importance of a healthy diet as they are able to access water or juice to drink throughout the day and enjoy fresh fruit at snack time. Children's meals are well balanced and take account of the individual needs of all children. The childminder plays an active part in helping children to understand why some foods are healthy and others are not. Meal times are relaxed social occasion, when children sit with the childminder around the table to enjoy their food.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe and well maintained home. Potential dangers have been identified and effective safety precautions put in place to minimise them. Regularly practised fire drills ensure that children are proficient in evacuation procedures in case of an emergency. Children are able to participate freely and independently in a range of play activities. Consistent boundaries ensure children have a balance between having freedom and safe limits. For example, the children help to tidy away equipment so they will not trip when there are too many things on the floor.

Children are supervised at all times. They are learning to accept responsibility for their own safety as they become aware of road safety when away from the setting. Children are well cared for in the case of an accident, as the childminder has a current first aid certificate and comprehensive first aid kit.

The childminder recognises her responsibility to protect children from harm and has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse and the procedures she should follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time spent with the childminder and engage well in a broad range of exciting and stimulating activities which promote their all-round development. Excellent use is made of relevant guidance, such as 'Birth to three matters', to enhance the planning of appropriate activities for all children.

Children's needs at various ages are well met as the childminder provides a fun and challenging environment, conducive to effective learning. Children are actively encouraged to try new experiences, such as washing the fruit for snack, rolling and moulding dough and observing what happens as ice cubes melt. Children begin to make sense of the world and express their ideas enthusiastically as they join in a diverse range of exploratory and sensory experiences. They create pictures and models with paint, paper and cardboard and explore the contents of treasure baskets and the texture of jelly and cooked spaghetti.

The childminder has a good understanding of each child's individual needs and interests, which ensures the comprehensive range of activities suit their various ages and abilities. Activities are planned for each week, which are varied and imaginative. Visits to local play facilities so

children can have social contact with other adults and children, enhances children's enjoyment, excitement and interest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to an appropriate range of books and imaginative toys that provide positive images, which are helping them to understand and value differing lifestyles. However, the childminder has not included any activities to help children understand about the religious and cultural beliefs of others. All children are valued and their individual needs are effectively met by the childminder.

Children are developing a good sense of belonging and knowledge of their local community. They look forward to attending trips to local parks where they can feed the ducks. This provides them with a range of interesting and enjoyable learning experiences. Children are responsive to the meaningful praise that they receive from the childminder. They are finding out about the boundaries that are in place and learning how to behave well as they are encouraged to share the toys and be kind to each other.

Children benefit from the relationships that the childminder develops with parents. The childminder obtains information which enables her to meet children's individual needs and develop consistency of care. The care of children is enhanced through the daily verbal exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well organised, friendly and caring home. The childminder has good relationships with the children and organises her day so she is able to give them lots of support, encouragement and attention. The home routine of young children is followed to ensure continuity of care between their home and the childminder's home. Children happily and confidently explore their surroundings and choose what to play with from the easily accessible toys and activities. Childminding records and documentation are in place, they are clear, appropriately maintained and stored. The childminder has successfully completed training for 'Birth to three matters', child protection and a first aid training course, thereby ensuring that her knowledge and practice remains updated.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was recommended to develop a range of activities and resources which reflect equal opportunities. Children have access to a range of resources which are successfully used to increase their understanding of diversity, however, it remains a recommendation from this inspection for activities to be further developed.

It was also recommended that written consent forms were obtained from parents. This has been fully addressed and ensures that parents are fully informed of the care provided.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of all 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):

- provide children with individual or disposable towels to reduce the risk of cross infection
- develop a range of activities to help children understand the religious and cultural beliefs of others.

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