



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	315541
Inspection date	30 October 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 February 1991. She lives with her adult daughter in the Smithills area of Bolton. She uses the whole of the ground floor and one bedroom and the bathroom on the first floor for childminding.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. She is currently minding three children under five, including two children that attend on a full-time basis. There is one child over five that attends before and after school and also in school holidays. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children.

The childminder runs a local toddler group and attends other toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well protected from infection and are well taken care of if they if they have an accident or become ill because the childminder follows suitable health and hygiene policies. Children are beginning to learn to understand simple good health and hygiene practices and use individual towels to dry their hands. However, the accident record does not include details of when an accident occurred.

Children are well nourished because the childminder provides healthy meals for children and the childminder works closely with parents to ensure that children's individual dietary needs are met. Children are starting to learn about keeping teeth healthy through naturally occurring opportunities as they look at books with the childminder.

Children are able to rest and sleep according to their individual needs because the childminder is flexible with her routine. They are able to choose their drink because the childminder asks children what they want.

Children undertake physical activity both in and out of doors as they use large equipment at toddler groups and dance to music in the childminder's home.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure, safe indoor and outdoor environment where they have clear floor space to play. There are some examples of children paintings on a notice board in the hall along with other relevant information for parents.

Children use suitable and safe equipment which is checked before children use it and any broken items are thrown away. Suitable high chairs are used for babies with harnesses but children are left unsupervised whilst the childminder is in the kitchen getting lunch. There is insufficient equipment for children to sit and eat together. Children have a wide variety of toys which are changed regularly so they do not become bored. However, current methods of storage make it difficult for children to access toys independently and some items can only be used if children ask the childminder, for example, books stored on high shelves and toys stored behind the settee.

Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder uses reins and wrist straps to keep children safe. They learn to cross the road safely with the childminder as they look both ways and cross in safe places, such as pelican crossings. Children keep themselves safe as they climb the stairs safely by holding the additional handrail which has been fitted to enable young children to reach and hold it as they climb the stairs.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role in child protection by following local authority procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled in the setting. They enjoy looking for animals on a favourite television programme supported by the childminder. They take part in a satisfactory range of planned activities and spontaneous events. This includes activities at toddler group which offer opportunities for children to ride bikes, use a slide and sing in a group. Children enjoy singing with the childminder both in her home and at toddler group. They enjoy music and dance using musical toys. Children look at books with the childminder who encourages children to look carefully at books with her as she asks them to count and look at colours, for example, guess the colour of teddies jumper. They form positive relationship with the childminder and are confident to ask for what they want.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are well cared for by the childminder who works well with parents to meet individual needs and ensure that they are fully included in life at the setting. They are able to make some choices as they ask the childminder for what they want but they are not able to freely access many of the toys, although some toys are stored out of reach for safety reasons. Children learn about the wider community as they walk to toddler group and school. They benefit from an increase in the resources that help children value diversity.

Children are learning to respond to appropriate expectations from their behaviour as they are reminded to say please and thank you. They receive praise for when they follow instructions, such as putting a tissue in the bin.

Parents and carers are well informed about their child's day through daily discussion at the end of each day. Parents know about the childminder's policies, including how to make a complaint. However, the childminder has not updated her complaints record to meet with changes in regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by a suitable adult who always makes sure that children are supervised by her when she is at toddler groups. She has undertaken the required first aid training and started to look at offering children more choice, by asking them what they want.

The adult: child ratios support children's care, learning and play. Satisfactory use of time and space contribute to children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to take a mainly active part in the setting. There are some written policies in place and they work in practice to promote children's health and ensure that children can make a positive contribution. Record keeping systems are in place and most are used well to meet children's needs.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder agreed to improve her knowledge and understanding of child protection and equal opportunities issues.

Children's safety has been improved because the childminder now has written information about local child protection procedures and government guidelines. The childminder has increased her understanding of equal opportunity issues and now raises children's awareness through discussion and sharing books with them.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that require the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

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):

- review current complaints record to ensure that it meets current regulations
- improve the organisation of toys so children can access toys easily and make independent choices
- provide age appropriate seating for children to sit and eat meals
- ensure children are always supervised when using a high chair
- include the time in accident records.

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