

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	315731
Inspection date	22 November 2007
Inspector	Anne Mort
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.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1999. She lives with her husband and one adult daughter in the Smithills area of Bolton. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play. The childminder provides care before and after school, including holiday care. She walks to the local school to take and collect children. There are currently four children on roll.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Priority is given to cleanliness in the home and children practise good hygiene habits, with hand washing as part of the daily routine. Children know to wash their hands after visiting the toilet and rapidly develop self help skills. This is due to the childminder ensuring the ground floor toilet and wash facilities are suitably stocked with toiletries. There is a roll of paper towel available to prevent cross infection. There is also bottled gel wash in the home that is readily available to children to use after activities and before meal time.

Children's health and safety is well promoted as the childminder holds a current first aid certificate. Detailed recording takes place about accidents and these are shared with parents. However, some recording is done on the same page, thus a parent can view recording about another child's accident. A system is in place for parental agreement and recording of medicine administration. Parents make a child's health or dietary problem, if any, known to the childminder. Parents sign that first aid can be administered by the childminder but it is not clear if this also extends to permission for the childminder to seek emergency medical advice on their behalf.

Children have ample opportunity to use and develop their physical ability. There are activities to promote physical development, both in the home and in the rear garden. These enable children to practise small and large muscle control. Indoors, for instance, children use jigsaws of varying degrees of difficulty, drawing and creativity materials. Outside, they have the use of play equipment such as balls, bikes and a swing. Storage of items is suitable and children can self select.

Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents. They have the opportunity to note any special requirement. Their wishes are completely respected and the childminder works in full consultation with them. Children understand what constitutes healthy eating as the childminder talks to them about this. They are offered a healthy snack, such as fruit. Drinks are available throughout the day and cups are set out so children can choose when to go for a drink. The childminder keeps parents fully informed about the food and drink on offer. Children enjoy their tea of pasta bolognese and have the added options of raw carrot and cucumber. They then choose either an apple or bananas and custard.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an extremely well maintained home where they are welcome to use the lounge and dining area and where there is a designated play room. This is furnished and resourced to offer safety and security. Adult and child sized furniture is available to children alongside a wide variety of good quality toys and books. These are stored within easy reach of children with safety borne in mind. This promotes choice and independence and children enjoy selecting creativity materials and negotiating with each other their turn on the computer.

Children move round the home independently. Their safety is promoted by the physical layout of the rooms. Care is taken to present uncluttered floors and clear walking space near doorways. Children's safety indoors is supported as their play is supervised by the childminder. She monitors the presentation of play materials to make sure they are safe and appropriate for the children's age and stage of development. Children have ready access to resources that include computer use, books, dolls, construction materials and board games.

Risks to children are minimised as the childminder takes steps to provide for their safety, for instance, the provision of smoke alarms and the neat storage of age appropriate toys and equipment. The house remains locked and parents are welcomed into the home to collect their child. Children are aware of and practise the emergency evacuation procedure.

Children's welfare and safety is promoted by the procedures in place and documents held about child protection. The childminder is aware of her role in child protection issues and makes parents aware of her policy and procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children use a play room that is specifically furnished and equipped to accommodate children's play and stimulate their interest. Children are very confident and self-assured. Their language skills are significantly enhanced. This is due to the childminder using age appropriate and stimulating language with them. They remain interested and highly motivated as they play. The childminder asks questions to challenge and develop their ideas and understanding.

Children show great enthusiasm in play and have an excellent attitude to learning. The childminder's expert practice in the use of conversation ensures children's social skills are extremely well promoted. Children are independent learners and develop excellent manipulative skills as they are presented with meaningful activities, for instance, the use of the computer, jigsaws and the creation of cards.

Children are presented with a nurturing environment in which they can rest and relax after the more formal school day. They are extremely well cared for and thoroughly enjoy their time in the childminder's home. She knows the children very well and responds to their needs and personalities. She creates and sustains a very happy atmosphere in which children's learning is significantly enhanced.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children benefit from a childminder who knows them extremely well. She is dedicated and committed to the children and treats them with the utmost care and respect. Children develop a huge amount of confidence and positive self-esteem as the childminder listens to them, actively interacts with them and praises their knowledge, skills and behaviour.

Children's awareness and understanding of the wider world is exceedingly well promoted. This is due to the childminder providing resources that promote positive images of diversity. These include jigsaws, books, play figures, dolls and a calendar.

All children are very welcome. The childminder seeks additional information and support should a child have a learning or physical disability. She expertly arranges resources and organises her time to provide inclusion. Children know how to behave at the setting. Their behaviour is exemplary because the childminder works in an extremely calm and consistent manner. Children freely choose where to play and what to play with and this actively develops their independence.

Continuity of care for children is significantly enhanced through the childminder's valued relationship with parents. She gives paramount importance to keeping parents informed of her plans. Parents note all relevant details about their child and consents are agreed upon. The childminder offers an exceptionally warm and welcoming environment. At the end of the day parents are invited to take a seat and are made very welcome to wait whilst their child completes an activity. The childminder verbally exchanges information with a parent on a daily basis as a child is brought or collected.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare and all round development is very well promoted. Children are at ease in the childminder's home. The childminder is aware to keep children safe from persons who have not undertaken a vetting procedure and is extra vigilant taking children to school and at pick up time.

Children play in tidy, uncluttered rooms. They have access to ground floor areas and a rear garden. These areas give space for free movement and exploration. Children's needs are met as the childminder manages her time effectively. She attends to children's developmental needs in the provision of suitable resources.

Paperwork is held in line with the National Standards for Childminding. Documentation is used to promote the care, welfare and learning of children. It fully supports the practice and knowledge of a skilled practitioner.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection the childminder was asked to update paperwork and her knowledge of child protection issues. The health and safety of children is promoted. On the whole, paperwork has been addressed in that there is a system to record incidents and the arrival and departure times of children are noted. Consents are in place for emergency first aid for children. However, these do not clarify if the childminder has parental permission to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and so remains a recommendation at this inspection. The childminder has updated her knowledge of child protection procedures.

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 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):

- maintain confidentiality when recording accidents
- review the wording regarding parental permission for the administration of first aid and the seeking of emergency medical advice or treatment.

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