



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316076
Inspection date	20 June 2005
Inspector	Judith, Mary Horsfall

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 outstanding. 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 1994. She lives with her husband and three children aged 9, 12 years and 16 years in a detached house in a semi rural area of Littleborough, on the outskirts of Rochdale.

All areas of the property are used for childminding including a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder visits local shops, pre-school group, toddler group, library, parks and primary schools with the children.

The childminder works from her home with her mother who is also a registered childminder. At present there are four children on the register.

She is a member of the Rochdale 'Children Come First' Network, the National Childminding Association and holds an Investors in Children Award.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

The children stay healthy because the childminder has very detailed policies and procedures in place which are actively promoted with the children on a daily basis.

The childminder uses knowledge and experience from her previous job as a child health officer to ensure the children's good health including areas such as sun protection and prevention of infection.

The children are learning simple hygiene practices such as hand washing and using their individual towels for hand drying. They are offered high quality snacks and meals, with healthy eating recipes and ideas readily shared with parents.

The children are very enthusiastic about physical activity and relish their time spent outdoors in the garden or in parks carrying out challenging activities. The children are taken on regular walks. Whenever possible the children walk rather than be transported in the car to increase their levels of exercise. The babies and younger children are closely monitored when sleeping to ensure they have adequate and safe rest.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is outstanding.

Children are welcomed into a exceptionally child friendly, safe home which includes a highly attractive dedicated play room on the ground floor. The children are encouraged to access the many books and resource boxes which are clearly labelled with words and photographs.

Children of various ages greatly benefit from an extensive range of suitable and safe equipment such as reflective arm bands and fire exit signs which keeps them very safe both on the premises and when on outings. Children's safety is actively promoted by the use of appropriate activities and discussion with the children. There is a huge range of leaflets on the parents notice board, encouraging a comprehensive home/childminding approach.

The children are protected by extremely detailed safety procedures including comprehensive risk assessments and reports from an external and health and safety officer.

Children's safety is further enhanced by the childminder's thorough knowledge of child protection procedures and the understanding that the children's welfare is paramount. Children are also protected by excellent practices such as a visitors book, password system for collecting children and daily safety checks.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

The children settle very well and make themselves at home in a confident manner, acquiring new knowledge and skills. They relate to each other and to the childminder in a very dynamic, co-operative way and are actively interested in their activities.

The children make positive choices from the enormous range of resources and activities on offer. Each day different photographs of activity options are displayed for the children to make their choices, plus a further range of activities such as sand and water play is also available.

The children's activities are based on themes, currently 'Things that Go'.

In noting individual children's needs it was clear that one child particularly enjoyed a toy wheeled motor bike. A trip was organised to a park in a nearby town where a play road layout gave the child further opportunities to develop his skills and purposeful play. A visit was also arranged for another child to visit the local baby clinic as this child is very interested in babies and their care. These activities co-ordinate with other visits to local community facilities such as the police and fire stations, helping children to learn more about their locality and the wider world.

The children are encouraged to develop through their play opportunities with the childminder gently helping the children to learn colours, fruits, shapes and numbers. Children's developmental needs and progress are recorded to ensure that the children are offered opportunities which are suited to their individual requirements.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

Children's individual care needs and routines are exceedingly well catered for in partnership with parents. The children's self esteem is strongly promoted in many ways such as displays, memory albums with reminders of activities undertaken with theatre ticket stubs, photographs, notes and artwork. By using the Birth to Three Framework with parents, the childminder ensures the children are actively working towards developmental milestones.

Highly sensitive use of language and resources help the children become aware of the feelings and needs of others. Children are making strong connections between themselves and the wider world by continual discussion with the childminder. An example of this is talking about and using the nearby trains, discussing where the trains go and where the children's parents work. Parents have access to a series of notice boards packed with information about local and national activities and

initiatives for children, such as healthy eating, bed wetting and travel safety.

The childminder makes strong efforts to ensure the children are active in community activities and festivals such as charity fundraising, Eid, birthdays and St Patrick's Day. Children are very proud of reports of their activities in the local newspaper.

Children are highly valued and treated politely. They are very enthusiastically encouraged to make choices and take decisions in a supportive environment.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children benefit greatly from the extensive, relevant training that the childminder has undertaken.

The children are very well protected and cared for by the childminder who has a detailed knowledge of child development. The well-being of the children is of utmost importance and the children are highly respected.

Ratios of adults to children are always rigidly maintained to ensure the safety of the children. Documentation is exemplary, with the children's individual records regularly up dated and stored in a confidential manner. Records are completed during the evenings or at the weekends as the childminder feels it is essential to give the children maximum attention and not be distracted by paperwork. Policies and procedures are not only of an exceptionally high quality, but they are also implemented on a daily basis, making a positive contribution to the children's progress, security and welfare.

The childminder works in a close partnership with her mother who is her childminding colleague, ensuring the organisation of their work is structured and safe.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection two minor recommendations were made regarding safety of the main bedroom and a cupboard on the landing. Both of these issues have been fully addressed, ensuring that children continue to be cared for in a safe environment.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 outstanding. 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

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk