

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	316480
Inspection date	10 March 2008
Inspector	Susan Magaret Lyon

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 1993 to care for five children. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a semi-detached house in Bury. The rooms available for childminding are the lounge, dining room, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and bedroom for sleep purposes. There is a pet dog in the household. The childminder provides an out of school service from local primary schools. There are currently four children on roll. The childminder has a child care qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy through satisfactory hygiene routines, such as washing hands before food and after toileting. They are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment. Children are protected from infection through an exclusion policy being in place which explained to new parents.

Furthermore, an appropriate nappy changing routine, the use of disposable wipes and separate hand towels all help to prevent the spread of germs. Children partake in physical activities by visiting local parks to keep fit and active. They keep healthy through some singing and dancing

games indoors. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise by walking to and from school each day. Children rest or sleep according to their needs promoting their good health and well-being.

Children are nourished through a variety of foods, such as fruit, yoghurts and pasta. Their individual dietary needs are appropriately met through discussions with parents and the recording of allergies and intolerances. Children learn about healthy eating from relevant discussions with the childminder. For example, she says 'fruit is healthy'. Children help select vegetables and count them into bags at the shops increasing their awareness of healthy eating. Drinks are provided throughout the day keeping their bodies healthy and hydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Space and resources are sufficiently organised to allow children to move around freely and safely. Play areas are bright, welcoming and child-centred with colourful pictures and posters displayed on the walls. Children use suitable toys and equipment due to satisfactory routines for keeping them safe and clean. Children are cared for in a mainly safe and secure environment through the childminder taking precautions to minimise hazards. For example, socket covers and safety gates are in place. However, the accessibility of sharp knives could be a potential hazard. Children are kept safe on outings because the childminder has put adequate safety measures in place, such as using reins and holding hands.

Children learn to keep themselves safe through appropriate discussions with the childminder about road safety and stranger danger. Children's needs are met whilst on the premises due to the childminder's awareness of fire precautions. For example, the emergency escape plan is sometimes practised with the children. Children are generally protected because the childminder has some understanding of her role in child protection. However, limited knowledge and understanding of appropriate procedures to follow puts children's safety at risk. Children are kept safe through close supervision.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children develop confidence and self-esteem through being given lots of praise and encouragement. They engage in a good range of age-appropriate activities to foster their development. For example, they make pirate ships from large cardboard boxes and enjoy making dens. Children acquire new knowledge from singing number rhymes and counting the wheels on the bus. The childminder asks them questions to make them think, such as 'what colour is the car'. Children are encouraged to make positive relationships through relevant discussions about sharing. Children are freely able to make choices in their play and pursue their interests. For example, by selecting a favourite activity.

Organised resources help children to become independent learners. Children are very settled and relaxed in the setting because the childminder gives them individual care and attention. Children explore some natural materials and develop their senses through visiting a local sensory garden to touch and smell the plants. Through a range of art and craft materials children develop their imagination and creativity, thus promoting their sense of achievement and enjoyment. For example, they make leaf prints, bake buns and biscuits and make Chinese lanterns. The childminder treats children with great kindness and consideration, as a result children are happy and eager to play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children feel a sense of belonging through a trusting and secure relationship with the childminder. They are valued and made to feel important as the childminder displays their art work and rewards their efforts by using sticker charts. Children become aware of the wider world through a good range of play resources, such as ethnic dolls, books showing disabled people and jigsaws showing different cultures. Children develop an awareness of the needs of others through relevant discussions about being sensitive and helping the younger ones.

The childminder ensures all the children are fully involved in the life of the setting by changing or adapting the way play is provided to suit all level's of ability. Children behave well. They begin to understand right from wrong through clear boundaries and explanations, and the childminder reinforcing positive behaviour through praise and reward. Children are cared for by a childminder who works with parents to meet children's individual needs. For example, signed consent forms are obtained for various aspects of care. Children's care is enhanced through the daily exchange of information regarding their progress and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are safe and protected through the childminder's awareness of the vetting of household members. She maintains adequate ratios, thus improving the safety of the children. The childminder organises her time, space and resources to meet children's needs. For example, she arranges visits with parents to help new children settle in and become familiar with the surroundings. Children benefit from visits to facilities in the local community, such as parks, shops and library. She provides opportunity for children to mix with other children by taking them to local toddler groups.

Children's care and well-being is enhanced through the childminder's commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills through further training. For example, she has attended Early Years Foundation Stage training and updated her first aid certificate. All required documentation is in place and up to date. Children's records are kept confidential. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to, develop resources that promote equality of opportunities; ensure the outdoor area is secure; establish written agreements with all parents and ensure evacuation drills are practised with children. The childminder has now obtained a good range of resources reflecting all aspects of equal opportunities. Contracts are now in place for each minded child and the emergency evacuation plan has been practised. The outdoor area is still not secure therefore a condition is imposed from this current inspection excluding the use of the garden. These improvements further enhance the care and safety of children attending the setting.

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 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):

- make sharp knives safe or inaccessible
- increase knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures

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