



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	318450
Inspection date	05 December 2006
Inspector	Julie Firth
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 has been a registered childminder since 1998. She lives with her three children aged 15, nine and eight years and adult son in the Urmston area of Trafford. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time when minding alone and seven children under eight when a registered assistant is present. There are currently seven children on roll. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have two cats.

She takes and collects children from the local nurseries and schools. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of physical activities that enable them to develop control of their bodies. Babies are encouraged to reach out for toys developing co-ordination. The physical development of older children and children under three years is fostered by the use of a good selection of outdoor play equipment in the childminder's rear garden and regular visits to the park and local groups. They learn the importance of regular exercise through daily routines. Younger children are encouraged to walk small distances when travelling to school. Children are becoming aware of their own needs, such as time for a rest or drink.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean and well-maintained home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after playing outside and using the toilet reduces the risk of cross contamination. There is an effective sick child's policy in place to prevent the spread of infections and protect children's health.

Children's growth and development is promoted by the provision of healthy meals and snacks. Good thought is given when planning menus and children have access to fresh fruit and vegetables. The childminder has recently undertaken a food hygiene certificate. Children access drinks in their own beakers at all times to keep them hydrated. They sit together for meals and snacks and enjoy a relaxed social occasion. Their dietary requirements are met well as she works with parents in finding out their child's requirements and respectfully follows these.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, bright stimulating indoor and outdoor environment. Rooms are appropriately organised ensuring a balanced range of activities for children. They play in a safe and secure environment where thought is given to making areas used by them safe, with effective risk assessments in place. Children learn about keeping themselves safe through discussions with the childminder about road safety on the way home from school and out on trips. They are reminded to keep in view of her and her assistant at all times.

Children's safety is enhanced by the careful monitoring of toys and activities to make sure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development. Care is taken to ensure that younger children do not have access to toys and activities which may cause them any harm and older children learn to keep small items out of reach. Children's independence is enhanced by the organisation of resources, which enables them to freely choose what to play with and where.

Children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted as the childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place and has attended recent training. She has a very good knowledge of child protection procedures that are in line with Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and these are shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy the company of the childminder who has developed warm caring relationships with them. She offers appropriate physical contact by means of cuddles and hugs, maintains eye contact and smiles, as a result the children are happy, secure, content and relaxed in her home and care.

Children relate well to each other and socialise with other children through regular attendance at the local groups. Children are engaged in a range of appropriate activities which they clearly enjoy, such as art and crafts, planting seeds, dressing up, role play, water play, books and board games. They enjoy preparing their sun flower display, painting hand prints and making cards, crackers and calendars for Christmas. They dance to music shaking their musical instruments. Children have the opportunity to relax when they are tired after school and to complete their homework if they want to. Trips are planned during the school holidays to places of interest, such as to the local parks and Blackpool enabling children to have experience of their environment. They are developing good language and communication skills through a variety of informal and planned activities, such as when the childminder reads to the children and during meal times.

Sensory and sound action toys are readily available and they have access to treasure baskets which enhances their sensory development. The childminder has a growing awareness of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and she is aware of the children's likes and dislikes. Activities are planned and evaluated to meet the age of the children attending. However, this is to be further developed to enable her to plan for the individual child's next steps of learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children benefit from a good range of activities and resources to increase their awareness of diversity and different cultures. Children celebrate Chinese New Year and Divali. There is a good settling in procedure to enable children to become familiar with her homely environment. She encourages the children to respect each other and play well together. Children's individual needs are discussed fully with parents and met well by the childminder. She ensures that children can play in an inclusive environment and spends time researching information regarding the specific needs of the child. This is further enhanced by the childminder attending relevant special needs training. Children are valued and respected as individuals and are well behaved. They are clear about their boundaries and expectations which are explained to them and applied consistently. The older children respect that rules are required to maintain a safe and fair environment where they can play happily and have fun. Their self-esteem and confidence are fostered as the childminder praises their efforts and achievements and makes space around her home to display children's work.

Children benefit from the warm and friendly relationships the childminder develops with parents. She has built up good relationships with them creating a welcoming atmosphere. They receive verbal feedback on a daily basis about their child's activities and progress, which helps to promote children's welfare and provides consistency and care for all children. They are aware

of the complaints procedure and they are welcome to discuss any concerns that they may have. Parents speak highly of the good care and attention their children receive.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is committed to improving the quality of care she provides to children and to support her professional development she attends regular training. She has recently completed a National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Childcare. Children are encouraged to explore opportunities available in clearly defined and well-organised areas in the childminder's home. She spends time with all her children to help them feel safe and secure and support them in their play. There is a clear timetable in place to facilitate taking and collecting children from local schools. Her register clearly indicates when the assistant is present and she has a clear understanding of her ratios when childminding. She works closely with parents to ensure children's individual needs are met.

A comprehensive booklet of policies and procedures are in place which contributes to the safety and well-being of children being cared for. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

On the last inspection the childminder was asked to develop her books promoting positive images and allow children to have access to natural materials.

The children have access to a good range of books promoting disability, gender and different cultures which enhances their awareness of diversity and they do have access to natural play materials at all times.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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):

- further develop play planning for the children's next steps of learning by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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