



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	500460
Inspection date	03 November 2006
Inspector	Sue Anslow
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 2001. She lives with her two children aged nine and five years in Macclesfield. The whole house, with the exception of the childminder's bedroom, is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under five and two children over five, all part time. There were no children present at this inspection. The childminder drives to and from schools in a neighbouring village and visits many local places of interest with the minded children.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She is registered to mind children overnight and offers weekend care if required.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are protected from cross infection and appropriate procedures are in place if children are sick or injured. The childminder encourages children to wash their hands at appropriate times, explaining about 'nasty germs' and a written policy informs parents of the exclusion of any infectious condition. Children's health is further promoted through plenty of fresh air and exercise, both in the garden and on outings to local play facilities.

The childminder demonstrates that children learn about the importance of healthy eating because she provides nutritious, balanced meals and snacks, appropriate to their individual needs. Fresh fruit is provided daily and children often help the childminder to make a fresh fruit salad. Children have access to drinks of water, milk or juice as required throughout the day, thus preventing dehydration.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from ample space to play in the lounge, kitchen, bedrooms and outside in the back garden. Children's art work is displayed around the kitchen, which presents a warm, welcoming environment for the children. Play resources are organised in a manner which helps to promote children's free choice. They are sufficient in quantity for the different ages and easily accessible. Equipment is kept clean and safe for the benefit of children's welfare.

The childminder has taken actions to ensure that risks inside and outside her home are minimised, so that children can play safely. Smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide gauge are in place. However, children have not practised any emergency evacuation procedures, which compromises their safety in this area. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder follows good procedures and teaches them about road safety when appropriate. Children's welfare is protected by the childminder who demonstrates good knowledge of child protection procedures, should the need arise.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Through discussion, the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how children learn and develop. She states that at times, she plans activities for the children to undertake that they will enjoy. At other times the play is spontaneous, with the children deciding what they would like to play with.

Photographic evidence and discussions reflect that the children are involved in a broad range of activities, such as trips to local places of interest and play facilities, craft activities and imaginative play with a variety of toys. Children are given the opportunity to socialise with other adults and children as they meet regularly with another childminder and a nanny to go on outings.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder stated that through consultation with parents and observation of the children, she is aware of each child's character and interests. A range of resources reflecting different cultures help children gain an awareness of the world around them. However, no images of people with disabilities are present, compromising the children's knowledge of this aspect of diversity.

All children are included in all games and activities, and generally behave well. The childminder showed a satisfactory knowledge of behaviour management, giving examples of how she would approach a variety of situations for children of different ages. Children's care is enhanced by the effective relationships between their parents and the childminder. Information is exchanged daily and a file containing written information about the service offered has recently been devised. Care is supported by written contracts and signed consent forms as required.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is well organised to suit the needs of the children. Access to a variety of play equipment and lots of outdoor play and outings, provide a good balance of activities. Most required documentation is in place, although the times of children's arrival and departure is not always recorded. The childminder has completed the initial childminding course and renewed her first aid certificate as required. She can offer overnight and weekend care and is a registered foster parent. Overall, evidence suggests that the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

The provider agreed to maintain a current first aid certificate, ensure low level glass is safe and provide play materials which reflect disability. A first aid course was completed this year and the glass fronted cupboard has now been covered with safety film. Both these actions benefit children's safety. The childminder has not obtained any resources reflecting disability therefore this recommendation is raised again.

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 complaint 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):

- devise and practise emergency evacuation procedures with all minded children
- provide a range of resources reflecting disability
- ensure children's times of arrival and departure are recorded.

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