



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY241427
Inspection date	18 August 2006
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 2003. She lives in Horwich with her husband and two children aged fourteen and nine. There are currently five children on roll. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and the first floor toilet facility are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed rear yard and front garden available for outside play. Children are taken on outings. The family have a dog. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment. The childminder promotes high levels of hygiene practice to protect children from germs. The nappy changing procedure presents

as good practice to prevent cross contamination. Priority is given to cleanliness in the home and children become aware of good hygiene habits as they have their own facecloth and towel.

Children rest in comfort when they are tired and follow their own routines comfortably. Children who are teething and tend to put things in their mouth are given due consideration and attention, to aid this stage of physical development. Children have opportunities to partake in physical play in the enclosed garden and when taken on outings.

Children's health and safety is supported by the childminder's knowledge of first aid and by the recording of accidents and medicine administration.

Children begin to understand what constitutes healthy eating. They are offered appropriate drinks and snacks throughout the day, for instance, children enjoy raisins and fruit juice.

Children's dietary needs are discussed with parents. They have the opportunity to note any special requirement and the childminder works in consultation with them. She provides cooked meals that include meat, fish and vegetables. She also respects parental wishes should they wish to send in a packed lunch or their own food for their child.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children move round the home independently. Their safety is promoted by the physical layout of the lounge and dining kitchen. Care is taken to present uncluttered floors and clear walking space near doorways.

Children are given choices and select activities from a variety of good quality resources. These include jigsaws, dolls, card games, vehicles, construction toys and musical instruments. Children's safety is fully supported as their play is supervised by the childminder. She has attended a course about the Birth to three matters framework and monitors the presentation of play materials to make sure they are safe for the children's age and stage of development.

Risks to children are minimised as the childminder takes steps to provide for their safety, for example, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, stair gates, cupboard locks and a fireguard. Age appropriate toys and equipment are neatly stored and readily accessible to the children.

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 has attended a relevant course.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children settle very well in the childminder's home and play in a tidy room. Children are very confident and self-assured. They relate well to each other and to the childminder. She dedicates time playing with them and talking to them at their level of understanding. Children's emotional

needs are being very well met. They share a warm relationship with the childminder and hugs are freely exchanged.

The children benefit greatly from the childminder's knowledge of planning for young children. She has attended a course on the Birth to three matters framework and effectively puts this information to good use. A photographic album illustrates children at play and on outings. The childminder is aware of the children's abilities and interests and plans how to provide for the next step in children's learning. Children develop their social skills and their knowledge of the wider world as they are taken on outings to various venues and parks.

Children's language and conversational skills are significantly enhanced. The childminder uses their play to ask questions and listen to their answers. She listens to their impromptu conversation and answers their questions. The words she uses are rich and stimulating and make the children think, respond, talk or laugh depending on the activity or circumstance. Children remain interested and highly motivated as they play. This is due to the childminder asking relevant questions to challenge and develop the children's thoughts and ideas.

Children's hand to eye co-ordination is developing as they use small fishing rods to catch moving toy fish. They use early mathematical speech as they count one, two, three before starting the game and use number cards to view a number and count the objects on the card. Children develop their concentration span and experience early reading skills in sharing a book with the childminder. She uses it as a teaching aid and children learn about their bodies as they point to the pictures of clothes in the book, then point to themselves where they would wear the clothing.

Children's thoughts, ideas and sense of touch is greatly stimulated by the use of a feely bag. The children put their hand in to feel an object and guess what it is by touch before withdrawing it from the bag. Their sense of themselves and what they look like is aided by the fact a hand mirror is taken out of the feely bag. Children take turns to look into it and say what they see. The childminder uses this object to promote children's learning, as they count how many eyes, noses and whether their hair is short or long.

Both children are extremely happy and secure in the childminder's care. She offers varying levels of support depending on a child's age and ability. Children are encouraged to try activities for themselves, for example, jigsaws. Children spend their time purposefully and enjoy a wide range of interesting play materials that offer optimal challenge.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's needs are met as they take part in a care routine agreed between the childminder and the parents. Children are supported and supervised by the childminder as they choose where to play and what to play with.

Children are very young and well behaved. The childminder is skilful at defusing a situation when one child becomes fractious as she cannot remove an item from a bag. Gentle words and help from the childminder soon settles the child. Children's independence is encouraged and

they select resources and activities that interest them, for example a fishing game, a feely bag and books.

Children use suitable resources, both age appropriate and those to present a realistic and effective challenge. All children are welcome in the provision and the childminder seeks additional information where a child has a specific need. At the time of the inspection very little in the way of resources reflected positive images of culture, gender or disability.

Children's care and well being is very well supported. Parents note on documentation relevant details about their child to enable the childminder to provide appropriate care. Complaints about the service are acknowledged by the childminder with the written outcome available for parents to view.

There are arrangements in place for the childminder to exchange information about a child and the events of the day when the child is collected. Partnership with parents is further established with the use of a daily diary for their child, where information can be recorded by both the childminder and the parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Children play in a tidy room. This gives 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.

The childminder accommodates and stimulates the children's conversation when supervising their play and introducing additional resources. She ensures suitable toys and activities are available. When developmentally appropriate, these are of a more challenging nature.

Documentation is held in accordance with the National Standards for childminding and used very effectively to promote the care, welfare and learning of children.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection there were recommendations to improve the system for registering children on the premises and to obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical advice.

Both of these recommendations have been addressed. As a result, children's hours of attendance and now illustrated on a daily basis and parents are aware the childminder may seek emergency medical advice if thought necessary.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been two complaints since the last inspection.

In July 2004 Ofsted received concerns regarding National Standards 1 Suitable Person, 2 Organisation, 5 Equipment, 9 Equal Opportunities, 11 Behaviour and 12 Working in Partnership with Parents and Carers.

The complaints and enforcement investigation team contacted the childminder who provided an investigation response regarding the concerns raised. Ofsted are satisfied that the childminder remains qualified for registration.

In September 2005 Ofsted received concerns regarding National Standard 1 Suitable Person and National Standard 2 Organisation. An Ofsted Early Years childcare inspector visited the provision on 14 October 2005. Ofsted are satisfied that the provider remains qualified for registration.

The provider is required to, and does, 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):

- consider presenting on a daily basis resources that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability.

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