



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY271998
Inspection date	12 March 2007
Inspector	Marina Anna Howarth
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 with her husband and two children aged 16 months and three years in Rossendale. The whole of the premises is used for childminding, with toilet facilities located on the ground floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for four children at any one time. She is currently minding two children under five years during the day and seven children over five years, before and after school and in the school holidays. There were no children present at the time of the inspection.

The childminder walks or drives to local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler group and takes children to the local library and park. The family have one dog. The childminder does not offer overnight care for children. The childminder holds the National Diploma in Nursery Nursing.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of how children's health is promoted. She can respond to accidents appropriately because a current first aid certificate is maintained. She has systems in place to gather and record information from parents regarding medical needs, dietary requirements and allergies.

The childminder describes how children would learn about their personal hygiene through their normal daily routines. For example, children have easy access to the sink with the provision of a booster step, training seat and potty. Liquid soap is provided and towels are changed after each session. Individual wet wipes are also used to avoid cross-infection. The childminder explains why it is important to wash their hands 'to get rid of the germs'.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that children stay healthy because the environment is well maintained and cleaned on a daily basis. She has devised good health and hygiene guidelines. For example, surfaces are wiped down with anti-bacterial spray before and after use. Toys and resources are also wiped down on a regular basis.

The childminder demonstrates a clear understanding of healthy eating. This is evidenced through menus detailing the variety of food that she gives the children. For example, pasta, fish, poultry, meat, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, yoghurts, a variety of dips, crumpets, toast, porridge and assorted cereals.

The childminder talks about how she ensures that children are refreshed throughout the day through the provision of regular refreshments comprising of water, diluted cordial and milk. She explains that older children's independence is encouraged through the provision of a jug of ready made juice and cups which are located within easy accessibility to enable them to help themselves.

The childminder talks about how she encourages children to socialise during snack and mealtimes by sitting at the table together. She also encourages them to participate in baking activities, such as making cakes, biscuits and pizzas.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children have access to a clean, well-maintained, welcoming, child-friendly environment. The childminder has taken steps to organise her home to enable children to have easy access to all areas. All areas are presented in a child-friendly way with high consideration given to safety, visual stimulation and freedom of movement. Additional toys and resources are located in other areas and rooms are used for specific activities. For example, eating and creative play takes place in the dining room at the table. The master bedroom is used to facilitate sleeping to enable children to rest without being disrupted.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks in and outside her home have been minimised, so that children can play safely. She explains how she helps children to learn about their own safety through discussion about fire evacuation procedures which are practised every term. The childminder has ensured that the rear garden is safe for children to access. For example, new fence panels have been fitted, there are locks on the gate making the area secure, and the steps, which were raised as a concern at the previous inspection, have been adapted so they are now safe and easy for children to use.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that risks around the home are minimised by conducting regular risk assessments which are recorded and reviewed regularly. However, children's safety may be compromised because there is a low-level glass cabinet located in the dining room which has not been made safe.

Through discussion, the childminder is clear of her role and responsibilities with regard to safeguarding children. She knows where to go to for advice and support regarding child protection and who to report concerns to. She has an information booklet which is easily accessible and contains all the relevant contact numbers and organisations.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children have access to the whole of the premises and there is a designated playroom which is attractively presented with an extensive range of toys and resources. Children's artwork and photographs are displayed on the walls creating a bright and stimulating environment.

The childminder talks about developing children's awareness of nature through facilitating outings to the local park, going on regular walks and planning activities where children have grown their own plants and flowers. Children make their own bird houses and attend organised visits to the farm, where they are given the opportunity to see different animals and handle them.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She clearly explains how she supports children's learning under three years through a wide variety of play experiences both inside and outside the home. For example, she talks about how she attends the story and song time at the local library where children have the opportunity to play and explore musical instruments.

The childminder demonstrates a good understanding of how children learn through play and how she develops their self-esteem by enabling them to have set times where they are able to select toys and resources of their choice. She talks about how she also plans activities to ensure their play experiences are varied and stimulating. For example, children have drawn around each other and painted themselves.

The childminder describes how everyday activities, such as visits to the local playgroups, allow children to be part of their community and are developing their knowledge and understanding of the wider world. A variety of photographs show children involved in a wide range of activities

and opportunities. They proudly show off their flowers they have grown, creations they have made with the dough, dressing up and playing happily together.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has an equal opportunities policy to share with parents. She takes positive steps to develop children's understanding of the wider world through the provision of resources which depict positive images of race, gender and disability.

The childminder demonstrates a good knowledge of behaviour management, giving good examples of how she would approach a variety of situations for children of different ages. For example, she discusses boundaries with children and gives explanations as to why certain behaviour may not be accepted. Good behaviour is actively encouraged through giving praise and encouragement. Children's achievements are acknowledged through evidence of their artwork displayed on the walls.

The childminder has taken action to ensure that parents are kept informed about the service she provides and their child's progress. This is achieved through the provision of an informative display board for parents. She has also devised an information pack containing policies and procedures relating to the setting which is discussed and given to the parents during the induction process. She ensures that information is exchanged with parents on a daily basis. This is accomplished through daily verbal communication and the use of a written daily diary.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder ensures that the needs and welfare of the children in her care are paramount by ensuring that all adults who come into regular contact with the children are suitably vetted. She has a high regard for the well-being of all children. She demonstrates a good commitment to broadening her knowledge and skills in childcare practice as she has attended a variety of training. She uses this knowledge effectively to provide children with a wide range of learning experiences. For example, she has attended the 'Birth to three matters' training and has implemented activities following the guidance.

There is an extensive range of play resources which are well organised to promote children's freedom of choice and easy access. The childminder utilises space around her home in an effective way that facilitates the different needs of children.

The childminder keeps detailed records of the children she provides care for. These include relevant information on children's individual needs. She has devised policies and procedures which are above the requirements of the National Standards and are relevant to her setting. She has a high regard to maintaining confidentiality and she ensures that parents are kept fully informed with regard to the good quality of service she provides. This is achieved through daily verbal feedback and written daily dairies detailing the child's progress.

Overall, evidence suggests that 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 build on the range of activities and resources that reflect positive images of culture, gender and disability. The childminder now has a selection of resources which reflect positive images through the provision of books, games, puzzles, dolls and figures.

The childminder was asked to enhance children's safety on the steps leading to the garden area. The steps have now been made wider and much easier and safer for children to use.

The childminder was asked to develop her practice of sharing written information with parents about individual children's progress, achievements and special events. The childminder now completes a daily diary which is shared with parents. There is an information board located in the playroom displaying relevant information about the setting. There are also displays of children's artwork and photographs of minded children involved with activities displayed on the walls.

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 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):

- ensure that the low-level glass in the cabinet located in the dining room is made safe.

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