

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY280216
Inspection date	28 January 2008
Inspector	Zoe Smith
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 has been registered since 2004. She lives in the Marple district of Stockport with her husband and their two sons who are aged four and seven. Children have access to all rooms on the ground floor. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and is currently minding nine children on a combination of part-time places. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children participate in a range of physical play activities that help them develop control and co-ordination over their bodies. They walk to and from school every day, look forward to walks along the canal to feed the ducks and enjoy playing at the park, where the swings are a firm favourite. These activities are providing children with plenty of fresh air and exercise and are supportive of a healthy lifestyle. Children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet that includes plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. They sit together at snack time to enjoy each others company and happily eat grapes, bananas, strawberries and bread sticks. Dietary requirements and

preferences are discussed and agreed with parents, and children receive food and drinks in sufficient quantities to meet their needs. Fresh drinking water is readily available for children to quench their thirst during the day.

Effective hygiene procedures are implemented to reduce the risk of cross contamination and to help keep children well. Children are cared for in a warm and clean home, they are learning about cleanliness and how to look after their bodies. They know to wash their hands before eating and after going to the toilet to prevent 'poorly tummies'. Children's welfare and well-being is protected because the childminder has up-to-date training in first aid and food hygiene. However, she does not have all the necessary permissions and records in place regarding accidents and the administration of medication to children. Written parental consent is not obtained to administer over the counter medicines, this is a breach of regulations. Furthermore parents do not always sign to acknowledge the entry when medication has been administered to their child or their child has had an accident.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, secure and well maintained home. Photographs, educational posters and examples of their art work are displayed in the playroom, making the environment stimulating and child friendly. Potential dangers have been identified and effective safety precautions put in place to minimise them. Plug socket covers, heat absorbing radiator covers and safety gates are provided to keep children safe. Effective fire precautions and procedures are in place. A fire blanket is provided and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are installed on every level of the house. Emergency evacuation routes have been thought about and fire fighting and detection equipment is regularly checked to ensure it is in good working order.

Children are beginning to learn how to keep themselves safe through discussions, activities and practice. On outings older children know they are not allowed to go further than the next lamppost, younger children know to hold the childminders hand or the pushchair and they regularly talk about road safety. Children choose what to play with from a wide variety of safe, good quality age appropriate toys and equipment. The childminder closely supervises and carefully monitors the children. She helps them choose appropriate resources for their age and development and successfully negotiates with children to agree the best time to play with small pieces so they are out of the reach of babies. Children are protected because the childminder is well trained in and has up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding children procedures and her responsibilities.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, settled and enjoy the time they spend at the childminder's home. There is lots of laughter and chatting as they play and learn. The children's day is planned to provide a well balanced range of activities both inside and outside the home to stimulate their interest and development. Children have opportunities to explore a wider range of activities and to play with other children during their regular trips to toddler groups. They also look forward to weekly trips to the library and in the school holidays to museums, the seaside and country parks. Children are making good progress in developing language skills and are becoming skilful communicators. They enjoy learning the words to five new songs every month and look forward

to their daily story sessions. They enthusiastically name the different colours of toys and spontaneously count the toys as they play.

Children have regular opportunities to explore a good range of messy and creative activities, such as painting, dough, cutting and sticking. They look forward to painting snowflakes on the windows and babies enjoy the feel of the paint as they squeeze and squelch it through their fingers. Children have great fun and make lots of noise enthusiastically bang the drum noisily and then quietly and they eagerly blow the whistle that sounds like a duck. They enjoy the challenge of designing and building using plastic bricks. Children carefully manipulate the pieces into place to build houses with windows and doors. Children quickly become engrossed in imaginary play, putting play figures into vehicles and then taking them on imaginary journeys round the floor. Babies enjoy exploring to discover what toys are on the shelves, taking them all off and then helping to put them back. Activity toys are popular with babies who eagerly put the frog into the container and then laugh when they open it and the frog jumps out.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are actively learning about the wider world and to respect and value difference. They have access to a range of imaginative toys, books and games that provide positive images of culture, gender and disability. They join in activities that help them learn about their own and the religious and cultural beliefs of others. Children coloured in pictures of dragons to find out about Chinese New Year, they listened to the story of Diwali and coloured in pictures of the main people from the story and made pots of daffodils to take home for presents on Mothers day.

Positive methods are used to promote good behaviour and to manage challenging behaviour. Children have discussed, agreed and helped to write their own rules which are displayed on the wall, they know to be kind, not to bully, share, listen, return toys and help each other. They are kept busy, receive lots of praise and encouragement and behave well. They work hard to achieve the stickers that are used to reward their efforts and good behaviour. Children enjoy playing board games which help them to learn rules, play fairly and take turns.

The childminder has an effective partnership with parents. They speak very highly of her, the care provided and how she puts their children's needs and that they have lots of fun and participate in a broad range of activities. Positive steps are taken to keep parents well informed about all relevant policies and procedures. A daily diary, daily discussions, menu plans and notices keep parents up to date about the service provided, their child's progress and any issues.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised, busy and child orientated home. The childminder sets out resources attractively on the floor, low level shelves and in large storage containers so they are easily accessible. Children confidently explore their surroundings, choose and get out the toys and resources. The childminder has positive relationships with children and organises the day so she is able to spend lots of time with them. She sits on the floor with children supporting, encouraging and facilitating their play, development and learning. Childminding records and documentation are clear, up to date and stored securely. Sensible written policies and procedures are in place, they are shared with parents and used to effectively inform and

underpin the childminders practice. The childminder has a recognised child care qualification and she regularly attends short courses to enhance her skills in specific subjects, such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework, Teeth and tummies and Celebrating cultures and diversity.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection five recommendations were agreed to improve the quality of care. The childminder has attended training to develop her understanding of equal opportunities issues and she has increased the toys and equipment to suit the needs of all children and to reflect diversity. This ensures individual children's needs are met and children are learning about the wider world. Children's full names are now recorded on the register to ensure complete and accurate records are always available to underpin practice. The radiators and appliances have been made safe to protect children from accident and injury. Written permission is now obtained from parents to administer prescription medication, however a further recommendation is made in respect of obtaining written permission to administer any medication has been made on this inspection.

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 all 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):

- ensure medicine is not administered unless the parent has discussed its use and given prior written permission, and ensure parents sign the entry to acknowledge when medication has been administered or their child has had an accident.

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