

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY289259
Inspection date	05 March 2008
Inspector	Teresa Ann Clark
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 Heaton Chapel area of Stockport with her husband and two children, aged 10 and three years. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. Bathroom facilities are situated on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

Minded children are taken on outings to local child centred activity groups, the park, shops and to meet other children in a social environment, with parental consent.

The childminder may care for a maximum of four children at any one time. There are currently two children on roll both attending on a part-time basis. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and holds a relevant childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive consistent messages about the necessity for good hygiene practices with regard to hand washing and personal care. They, therefore, know that they are expected to wash their hands after using the bathroom and before they sit down to eat. They confidently use the antibacterial gel to clean their hands throughout the day. Children's health and welfare is further promoted by the childminder's written policy for sick children because it reflects their best interests.

The risks of cross infection are minimised because the childminder and parents work cooperatively when dealing with health issues within the setting. The childminder ensures appropriate records relating to children's health are maintained. For example, accident and medication records contain details and parental signatures. However, the childminder has not obtained parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment.

The children have a positive approach to developing a healthy lifestyle because the childminder talks to them about the importance of a healthy diet, plenty of fresh air and the need to take regular exercise. They go for regular walks and visit the park on a regular basis. Trips to the park allow the children the freedom to run, swing and climb, which promotes their physical development. On the day of inspection children skilfully manoeuvred their bodies through the tunnel and stretched out across the floor.

Children enjoy relaxed mealtimes where they sit at the table and chat to each other. Parents' wishes in relation to children's individual dietary needs are respected. The children independently quench their thirst as they help themselves to drinks throughout the day. Healthy and nutritious snacks are provided which include lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Children develop a positive attitude to healthy eating as they talk about foods that are good and bad for them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a well-maintained, welcoming home with lots of space for them to play in comfort. The childminder makes good use of space so children are able to participate in a range of activities. Children are encouraged to develop a love of books as a designated book corner is set up with cushions and a good range of books for children to choose from.

The craft cupboard is well stocked and accessible to children so they can select resources to express their creativity. Toys and resources are attractively set out each day. These are plentiful, age appropriate and allow children to make choices and develop their independence. The childminder carefully monitors toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has taken many positive steps to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment where they are able to move around freely and confidently. The premises are kept secure and adequate fire procedures are in place, for example, smoke alarms on each level of the home, a fire blanket and a carbon monoxide detector are in place. An emergency evacuation procedure is in place, but this has not been practised with the children to ensure they know what to do in event of a fire. The childminder explains boundaries as she reminds

the children about playing safely, for example, not throwing hard toys through the net of the tent.

Children are adequately safeguarded because the childminder fully understands her responsibilities relating to child protection issues and knows the procedures to follow in the event of any concerns about a child in her care. However, she does not have the contact numbers for the relevant agencies in the event of any child protection concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very well cared for in a positive and nurturing environment where they share warm relationships with the childminder. She is warm and patient and offers children lots of encouragement and support. As a result, the children are happy, confident and secure in her care.

Children's communication skills are very well supported through good quality interactions. The childminder spends time interacting with children and consistently talks to them to encourage their language and understanding. She shows interest in what children are doing and listens attentively to what children are saying, responding positively to their questions. As a result, children are keen to engage with the childminder and become very confident communicators.

The childminder plans a range of interesting activities which the children enjoy. They enjoy playing with the puppet theatre they have made, acting out the story of the three bears. Children are very confident and proudly show the inspector their individual files which contain samples of their work. These include paintings, drawings and weaving patterns. Children visit places of interest, such as parks and museums which helps them learn about the wider world.

Children play well together and clearly enjoy each other's company. They play matching card games which provides opportunities for children to count as they divide the cards amongst themselves. Children know they can make choices and change activities throughout the day if they wish. They ask for the tent and tunnel and the childminder acknowledges their request by asking them to help her set it up.

The children have lots of fun in the childminder's care and form good relationships with the childminder's family. Children are at ease and clearly comfortable in the childminder's warm and friendly home where they make good progress in all areas of their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are polite, confident and well behaved because they understand the behavioural expectations within the home. They know they must ask if they wish to use the bathroom on the first floor and realise the childminder expects good manners when sitting at the table to eat. They respect the house rules and understand why it is important to be supervised. Children play in harmony and show a willingness to help tidy up when they have finished playing.

The childminder treats children as individuals, with care and respect. Consequently, children value one another and this helps them feel good about themselves. The childminder's written policy on equal opportunities outlines how she actively promotes anti-discriminatory practice with children. Children access play resources reflecting diversity to help them gain an awareness

of similarities and differences. They are also developing an understanding about different cultures and religions. For example, children have been learning about Diwali and have made a beautiful display.

Children benefit from the secure relationship their parents have with the childminder because effective communication systems have been established. This ensures parental wishes and preferences influence childminding procedures. Parents receive verbal information about their child's welfare. Although the childminder has a complaints procedure in place, she has not fully developed a system for recording any complaints made by parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her time in a way that effectively meets the needs of the children she cares for. She enables them to make choices and engage in a wide variety of activities in the home, and on trips to other local facilities. She shows enjoyment and commitment to her role as a childminder and attends training to update her knowledge. For example, she has recently attended getting ready for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The childminder provides a happy and friendly home where children feel relaxed and comfortable. They benefit from familiar routines which take account of their own needs and preferences, such as regular trips to the park and set meal times. Children enjoy the company of the childminder when they sit chatting and playing games.

Good regard is given to the National Standards to ensure outcomes for children are positive. Records and documentation are very well organised to ensure the smooth running of the childminder's business. A range of policies and procedures support and enhance her work to provide an efficient service to contribute to children's health, safety and well-being. However, not all consents are in place. The childminder ensures the registration certificate is displayed as required to give reassurance to parents.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to provide an appropriate range of activities and resources to meet the needs of children under two years. She also agreed to ensure toys and activities promote equality of opportunity and to ensure hazards in the kitchen are inaccessible.

The childminder has made good progress since the last inspection. She has a very good range of toys and equipment to meet the needs of children under eight years. These promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. The kitchen provides a safe environment for children as the boiler has been removed and locks are fitted to cupboards and the knife drawer. These improvements contribute to keeping children safe and promote positive outcomes.

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 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):

- practise the emergency evacuation procedure with the children
- obtain contact details for relevant agencies in the event of any child protection concerns
- ensure all relevant consents are obtained from parents including consent to seek emergency medical treatment
- develop the system used to record complaints and share this with parents.

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