

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY290661
Inspection date	26 February 2008
Inspector	Jannet Mary Richards

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 has been registered since 2004. She lives with her husband and five children aged nine months, two, nine, 12 and 17 years in the Ramsbottom area of Bury. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding. There is an enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is currently caring for one child under five years. She takes children to local toddler groups on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home environment where good hygiene practices are used to promote their health. The childminder ensures that toys and equipment are cleaned regularly, for example, and that the children wash their hands before eating and after outdoor play. Care is taken to reduce the risk of the spread of infection by wiping children's noses when needed, and by requesting that children stay at home when they are ill. The children are familiar with the routines which promote their health, helping to clean the tables after messy play, for example.

Children enjoy healthy and nutritious home cooked meals and healthy snacks. Their enjoyment and appreciation of food is enhanced as they are able to assist in preparing meals. For example, they make their own pitta bread pizza, selecting from their favourite healthy toppings.

The children spend time outdoors every day, enjoying fresh air and exercise to promote their health. In addition they are able to play with wheeled toys in the house and a good range of equipment in the garden, which helps to develop their physical skills and coordination.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home is a very child friendly environment where children are made to feel welcome and at home. Photographs of the children at play and art work the children have created are displayed attractively on the walls. This encourages the children to have a sense of belonging and to feel valued. The children have access to a very good range of toys, books and equipment, all are very well organised and stored so that they can reach them easily. This ensures that the children have plenty of choices about what they do.

The childminder's home is a safe environment for children overall, with measures in place, such as safety gates and socket covers, which minimise risks to the children. The children are unable to open the front door, although this is not always secure enough to prevent uninvited visitors. The childminder minimises all risks by supervising the children very well and by encouraging them to be aware of safety issues. She encourages the children to help tidy away some toys and explains that they may fall over them, for example. When they are outdoors the childminder talks to them about stopping at the kerb and holding hands to keep safe.

The childminder has a good awareness of procedures to take in order to safeguard the welfare of any children she may care for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy and content in the care of the childminder. When they arrive in the morning they happily wave goodbye to their parents and settle quickly to the interesting activities available. They are clearly very confident in their surroundings and in the company of the childminder. The children respond very well to the calm manner and interested approach of the childminder. As they play the childminder sits alongside them and discusses what they are doing, encouraging the children's interest and leaning.

The children have a very good range of play experiences which promote their development and enjoyment. The childminder spends time with the children, observing how they play, developing a thorough knowledge of what they enjoy and their stage of development. She uses his knowledge to plan activities which she knows the children will enjoy and which encourage their further development. For example, she observes that children are interested in exploring the textures of different materials, such as paint and dough. She develops this interest by providing the children with a tray of corn flour mix and water which they spend considerable time exploring, using all of their senses to experience the activity.

In addition to spending time exploring toys and activities in the childminder's home, the children visit toddler groups and activity groups, such as music sessions, regularly. This ensures they have a wide variety of interesting experiences and opportunities to spend time with their peers.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children respond very well to the positive approach of the childminder and behave well in her care. The childminder has a good awareness of how to manage behaviour, and encourages the children to be caring and considerate to each other. The children have opportunities to talk about and become aware of differences as they play with a good range of toys and books which reflect different people in society. This is developed further when they learn different ways to communicate as they sign their own names at the music session they attend.

Children's individual needs are met very well as the childminder discusses these thoroughly with parents and agrees children's routines. She has a sound awareness of the importance of meeting individual needs and including all children. Parents and carers are very well informed. Each day the childminder takes time to discuss what the children have been doing. In addition, she provides parents with useful written information about her policies and procedures, providing them with a valuable insight into how she cares for their children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The very effective organisation of the childminder ensures that children are safe, well cared for and happy. The childminder's home and toys are particularly well organised and provide an environment where young children thrive. The childminder has a good awareness of current issues in childcare and uses the relevant guidance well. For example, she uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework to identify developmental characteristics and plan activities which the children will enjoy and benefit from.

The documentation which supports the care of the children is well recorded and maintained. The additional policies and procedures provide valuable information for parents.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the time of the last inspection some safety issues were raised. Since then the childminder has moved house and has put measures in place to ensure the new premises are safe for children. The security of the premises remains an issue and a recommendation from 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 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 premises are secure at all times.

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