



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY298470
Inspection date	30 June 2005
Inspector	Christine Fraser Turner

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 2005. She lives with her partner and 3 children aged 12, 8, and 1 in Horwich near Bolton. The childminder uses the whole of the ground floor of the property for childminding. Bathroom facilities are located on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property.

The childminder is registered to care for 3 children at any one time. She is currently minding 1 child who attends part-time.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association. She attends

the local childminder drop-in and takes children to local parks and the library.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are protected from illness through good policies and procedures for dealing with sick children. These are shared with parents before a child is cared for by the childminder. Children benefit from fresh air as they play outdoors in the garden, weather permitting. They benefit from effective hygiene procedures for example washing hands before eating which are implemented consistently. The risk of cross-infection is minimised as children have individual hand drying facilities.

Children benefit from having their individual dietary needs met well because the childminder works effectively with parents. Children are able to make some choices with-in the menu for example to choose the flavour of the yogurt they want at lunch time. Children receive regular drinks but need to ask for additional drinks. The childminder identified that children's meals and snacks would be improved by the addition of a wider range of fruit and vegetables and through the introduction of a planned menu.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure, safe indoor and outdoor environment. They are able to play safely due to the childminders detailed, effective policies and procedures that keep children safe. Children are kept safe on outings through the childminder's good knowledge of health and safety. She follows safe procedures, for example the use of harnesses and buggies for young children. They benefit from a good range of age appropriate toys which are readily accessible to enable children to make their own choices for play and promote their independence.

Children are well protected through the childminder's good understanding of local child protection procedures and a clear policy which is shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the childminders home. They develop confidence and self esteem as they become involved in activities for example baking. Children benefit from a good range of developmentally appropriate activities where children are able to take the initiative to make their own choices for learning from the child centred environment.

Children benefit from a good balance of child led and adult led activities. A good

example is children making chocolate Krispie cakes. Their independence is encouraged as they mix the chocolate and put the mixture into paper cases.

Children are confident to make their needs known to the childminder. Their requests are listened to for example a child requesting to play outdoors and the childminder enables this to happen. Children benefit from the childminder's good understanding of the importance of children taking the initiative for their own learning.

Children benefit from activities being age appropriate through the childminders good understanding of the Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage and Birth to three matters. Children's individual development records ensure the childminder plans play at the right level for each child.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals. Effective communication between parents and childminder and the gradual admission of the child to the setting helps children to settle well. Children with special needs would be welcomed and the childminder would work effectively with parents and any other professionals to ensure their needs were met in full. Children learn from an early age to have a positive view of the wider world through the use of good quality resources that increases children's awareness of the world we live in. Children are praised for their achievements and enjoy receiving stickers to show to parents.

Children benefit from a child centred environment that encourages independence and enables them to make their own choices for play. Children behave well, supported by the childminder who offers clear explanations of why children should not behave in that way. Older children would be involved in helping to make the house rules with the childminder.

Children benefit from a positive partnership with parents which ensures that children's daily needs are met through good quality information provided for parents in their handbook and through daily discussion with the childminder.

Organisation

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are cared for by a childminder who has many years experience in child care. She attends various courses which ensure children benefit from best practice. Children have good adult child ratios that offer an excellent level of support to children, with planned opportunities for children to receive individual attention. The excellent organisation of space and resources enables children to make their own choices for learning which increase their enjoyment and independence. Children's health, safety and enjoyment are achievement and ability to take part in the setting are well supported. This is achieved through the excellent policies and procedures which are reviewed as required.

Individual records that promote children's well being are used effectively and children benefit from the good use of individual development records to provide good, age appropriate play experiences.

The provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides care.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- continue to develop menu planning for children and to continue to increase the amount of fruit and vegetable offered to children
- ensure children have more ready access to drinks.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk