

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY340408
Inspection date	20 April 2007
Inspector	Susan Elaine Heap
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 was registered in 2006. She lives with her husband and three children aged six, four and two years in the Spotland area of Rochdale. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding activities and there is a rear garden for outside play. A maximum of three children may attend at any one time. There is one child on roll. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment. The childminder has suitable hygiene routines in place to ensure her home and toys are kept clean. Children learn to wash their hands before eating their afternoon snack and after visiting the bathroom. They know to wipe their mouths with paper towels after eating and then independently go to wash their hands 'because they are sticky'. The childminder demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the requirements for the recording of accidents and medication, and has a current first aid certificate. These help to promote and maintain children's welfare.

The childminder ensures children are properly nourished by working in partnership with parents and having knowledge of their dietary requirements. She often provides yoghurts and fresh fruit as an afternoon snack. Children particularly like to eat a bowl of cornflakes and drink their milk at this time. Drinking water is freely available which ensures that children are well hydrated.

Children's health and well-being is supported through physical activities, such as playing football or cricket in the garden or visits to the local park across the road. Children talk about their favourite activity which is riding on a bike.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder organises space in the home appropriately, so that children can rest, play and eat in comfort. Some toys and play materials are stored to enable children to select safely and independently. Their development needs are met through the provision of an adequate range of toys and equipment. However, these need to be developed to ensure that they continue to meet children's changing development needs and offer sufficient challenge and interest.

The childminder takes positive steps in the home to minimise risks and keep children safe. However, the rear garden is not fully secure and, as a result, compromises children's safety. Children are learning to keep themselves safe as the childminder talks to them and gives explanations to reinforce their learning. For example, they know not to go into the kitchen or upstairs without asking permission.

Children are protected because the childminder has attended child protection training. She shows understanding of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect and the recording and referral procedures to follow. All the relevant contact numbers and details are available which follow the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy, relaxed and well settled in the childminder's home. They interact positively with the childminder who listens to and values what they say and praises them for their achievements. They have formed good relationships with both the childminder and other children and happily talk about how they enjoy their time in the setting.

They are interested and involved in their play, for example, a four-year-old concentrates for a long period colouring pictures in their book. They are able to make choices and take some decisions in their play as the childminder asks them what they would like to do next. During the school holidays the childminder plans more specific activities, such as visits to the local park or playing board games. Although the childminder has appropriate knowledge and understanding of children's play and development needs, she has limited knowledge of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and their needs are met well by the childminder who works in close partnership with parents. There is an effective settling in process where children spend short periods of time at the setting with their parents and this is gradually built

on. This ensures that children feel safe, secure and settle well. Information is shared informally with parents through daily conversations about children's play and development.

Children behave well as the childminder consistently gives explanations to them about what is right and wrong. They have a clear understanding of the childminder's simple house rules, such as not jumping on the furniture, and they know to tidy up after they have finished playing a game. Good manners are positively encouraged and children often say please and thank you without any prompting. The childminder acknowledges children's efforts and achievements which enables them to feel good about themselves.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder uses her time appropriately in order to provide children with appropriate levels of her time and attention. This ensures children receive quality care and that their individual needs are met well. Suitable use of space and resources ensure children are able to move confidently around the setting and make choices about their play.

All the required documentation is in place and meets the requirements of the National Standards. In addition, the childminder has written her own policies and procedures which promote children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and ability to make a positive contribution, and each parent is given a copy of these. This ensures that they are aware of all aspects of their child's care. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- ensure the rear garden is safe and secure

- develop toys, equipment and resources to ensure they continue to offer challenge and interest and meet children's changing developmental needs
- improve knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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