

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY342669
Inspection date	13 August 2007
Inspector	Shaheen Matloob
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 December 2006. She lives with her husband and one adult son in a terraced property in the Clayton le Moors area of Accrington, Lancashire. The whole of the ground floor of the house is used for childminding purposes with access to toilet facilities and master bedroom on the first floor. Local amenities such as the schools, park, libraries and shops are within walking distance. The family has seven dogs which have their own living accommodation outdoors.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for one child under two, full-time, and two children over eight who attend after school and during school holidays. 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 are cared for in a clean and well-maintained family home, where good standards of hygiene are maintained throughout. Children are protected from illness and procedures in place ensure that the childminder acts in the best interest of all children to prevent cross contamination. Children develop a good understanding of personal hygiene through daily routines. Older children have an appropriate understanding of personal hygiene and discuss how hand washing 'stops germs going in to our mouths and making us ill'. Such procedures including hygienic nappy changing and disposal ensures that good standards of hygiene are sustained and prevent the spread of infection. Accident and medication records generally meet requirements, but require some amendments to include the exact location of injuries sustained. The childminder has not obtained written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment. The childminder holds a valid first aid certificate in order to protect children and keep them safe.

Children have daily opportunities to participate in exercise and develop their knowledge of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They have access to a secure outdoor area and frequently walk to the local library or park. Children explain how these walks help them to stay healthy and how sometimes they can walk for two or four miles. Children can rest and be active according to their needs and younger children's care routines are consistently followed.

The childminder has a suitable knowledge of healthy eating and has completed relevant training regarding food hygiene. Children benefit from a range of snacks and meals that are healthy and nutritious. Meals are prepared in adequate quantities to children's needs and comply with dietary requirement and parents wishes to promote children's healthy growth and development. The childminder requests information from parents about dietary needs, preferences which are taken notice of. Children learn about healthy eating through discussion. They understand that 'you have to eat fruit and vegetables like carrots, which make you see in the dark' and 'you have to drink loads of water to stay hydrated'.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes positive steps to promote children's safety within the setting and outdoors. She ensures that appropriate safety measures are taken to prevent accidents. Regular checks successfully minimise potential risks to children. The childminder supervises children appropriately and makes them aware of dangers whilst letting children play as freely as possible, letting them develop independence. General security and levels of supervision are satisfactory and prevent children from leaving the premises unsupervised. Children learn to keep themselves safe and avoid accidental injury, as the childminder points out and explains dangers. Children know that they must follow the house rules to keep each other safe, such as picking up their toys and any small pieces on the floor to prevent young children choking on them.

Children have access to a variety of range of safe play materials that are developmentally appropriate and provide appropriate challenges for all children. The childminder also has a wish list so that she can add to her resources. All toys are purchased through reputable outlets and the childminder ensures that they conform to safety standards. Toys are checked weekly to ensure that they remain safe and children are involved in this process. Toy boxes are clearly

labelled and children help to keep them tidy. Storage of toys and equipment allows children the freedom to make choices and access resources within a safe environment. Children learn to keep themselves safe on outings as the childminder promotes road safety. Children know that they have to be sensible when on outings and when crossing the road.

The childminder has a suitable knowledge of child protection issues. She recognises her responsibility and the importance of safeguarding children and ensuring that their welfare is paramount. However, she currently does not have a copy of relevant safeguarding guidance.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enter the setting enthusiastically and they are happy and settled in the warm and caring environment where they are able to develop at their own pace. Their increasing confidence and self-assurance helps them to make informed decisions, explore and investigate the available play materials. The childminder offers children consistency and provides new first hand experiences for children. She balances her time well to allow older children to play independently so that she can dedicate time and support for younger children's needs and care routines.

Children are encouraged to share and build on their individual characters. Children are eager to talk about why they like attending the childminder's and specify, 'because we like doing crafts and the childminder helps us with crafts' and that they 'like going to the library to choose books'. Babies are becoming confident to make decisions, explore and investigate as they have access to a good amount of free floor space and using their senses to explore musical and discovery toys. The childminder responds to their gestures and sounds to promote language development. Older children initiate and enjoy creative art work as they use media and materials to create 'art work explosions' and bright colourful pictures using stencils.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and included as the childminder promotes equality. The environment is free from discrimination where the contribution of children is valued and stereotypes are challenged. She explains the importance of treating others with respect and valuing each other's differences. Children have access to a basic range of resources to promote children's understanding of diversity. Although, these are currently insufficient and do not effectively develop children's understanding of the wider world.

Children learn to respond to expectations for their behaviour as the childminder has developed clear and consistent boundaries. She uses distraction and re-direction to manage children's behaviour. Age appropriate explanations help children to understand unacceptable behaviour. Children know that they have to behave and what constitutes a good behaviour and 'being kind and playing together nicely'. The childminder readily gives positive praise and encouragement to help children develop self-esteem.

Partnerships with parents are positive. The childminder has developed an open and honest relationship with parents. She values their contributions and takes on board any suggestions and comments. Daily verbal discussions keep parents up to date with children's activities and progress. Written policies and procedures are made available on introduction to inform parents of all aspects of the setting and practices.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Effective and efficient organisation of time, space and resources means that children take responsibility and initiative and become increasingly independent. Children are settled and feel at ease in the child-centred environment and often initiate and extend their own play.

Children benefit from a committed childminder who is motivated and has a good understanding of child development and a high regard for the well-being of children in her care. The childminder has an enthusiastic approach and commitment to continual improvement and has completed several training courses since registration in order to enhance her knowledge. Such knowledge is reflected in the provision and the childminders willingness to take on board recommendations and provide positive outcomes for children's care learning and play.

Legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is professional and organised well. Policies and procedures are well-thought out, clear and are used effectively to protect children, promote their well-being and support them to develop to their full potential. 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 accident records are developed to include exact location of injury and obtain written parental consent to seek emergency medical treatment
- extend the range of resources and activities that promote equality and children's knowledge of the wider world
- obtain a copy of relevant safeguarding guidance.

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