

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY345242
Inspection date	30 April 2007
Inspector	Rosemary Killackey

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 three year old son in the Radcliffe area of Bury, Lancashire. The whole of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom of the childminder's house are used for childminding. The back garden is not currently included in the registration.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time. There are currently two children on roll. The childminder uses her car and walks to the local schools to take and collect children. She attends the local toddler groups and takes children to the local library and park.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are introduced to appropriate health and hygiene practices through everyday routines. They are encouraged to wash their hands before eating food, after visiting the bathroom and playing with messy play, such as paints and glue. The childminder reminds children how easily

germs spread so they are encouraged to cover their mouths when coughing and sneezing. The risk of cross-infection is further reduced by the childminder ensuring parents are clear about her sick child policy.

Children experience a range of activities both inside and outside the childminder's home, all of which contribute to their good health and general well-being, for example, they enjoy fresh air and exercise when they visit the park and activity centre. The childminder ensures that the children are happy and settled by making them feel part of the family and by having consistent everyday routines.

Children benefit from a balanced diet, for example, homemade roast dinners, followed by yoghurt and fruit. They often help to prepare their own meals, for example, they made up their own pizzas and chose the toppings they wanted on it. Water is readily available. Children learn to develop social skills during meal times, they sit together at the dining room table and usually the childminder sits with them. The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that meals and snacks are suitable for the individual needs of each child; she records any allergies, likes and dislikes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a safe, warm and welcoming home. All safety equipment is in place or available. However, some low-level glass may impact on children's safety. Children are able to move around the home with ease and are able to play with a selection of age appropriate toys, which the childminder chooses. The majority of toys are stored in a cupboard under the stairs which is not accessible to children. The risk of accidental injury is further minimised by the regular checking of play materials and the gentle reminders to children about throwing toys.

Children develop an understanding of safety when out and about. The childminder teaches children about road safety by talking to them about how to cross the road using the pelican crossing. When asked by the childminder what they look for when crossing the road they were able to tell her they look for cars. They stay near the childminder when walking and hold hands. Children also learn about how to stay safe in the event of fire, the childminder has a clear evacuation policy.

Children's safety is further enhanced by the childminder's understanding of safeguarding children. She is clear about her role in protecting children and knows who to contact if she has any concerns. Parents are informed about her duty to protect children at the beginning of a placement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled, they are made to feel part of the family and enjoy their time spent with the childminder. They enjoy each other's company and form sound friendships. The childminder gets to know them well, because she gives them individual attention and children enjoy a good relationship with her. The children's individual needs are met, because the childminder knows what they are interested in and provides toys and activities to meet those interests. For example, she knows they like painting, so she provides them with all the resources they need to help them produce a 'masterpiece'. One child proudly showed the picture she had

painted and another the shape he had made from the play dough. The childminder promotes children's learning further, through questioning about what colour and shape it is.

The childminder gives the children lots of praise and encouragement, which results in them developing good self-esteem and confidence which increases their sense of belonging. They benefit from consistent routines for eating, resting, playing and going out, all of which help the children to look forward to their day. They are confident, articulate children. Although the childminder is providing interesting and age-appropriate activities to promote children's learning, these are not yet linked to the 'Birth to three matters' framework for any younger children.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from being cared for in a positive home environment, they are encouraged to behave well and develop respect for each other. Children learn to play harmoniously with each other by sharing and taking turns. They know what is expected of them with regard to good manners and behaviour, for example, when one child wanted the same toy he was asked to share and take turns and when he was given the toy to play with he said 'thankyou'. The childminder further promotes this by ensuring children follow guidelines for safe play, such as asking children not to stand on chairs because they may fall, and to tidy away toys before choosing others to play with.

Children are recognised as individuals and their differing needs are met. They are valued and treated with equal concern. The childminder encourages the children to learn about diversity and how to respect each other, for example, they celebrate festivals and they play with some toys that reflect positive images. However, she has a limited amount of toys and resources reflecting all aspects of equal opportunities.

Children's individual needs are met with respect for parents' wishes. The childminder provides parents with information at the end of each day, which ensures that they are well informed about their child's progress.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the effective organisation of the childminder. Activities are planned to ensure children enjoy the time spent in her care. Space is well organised, which enables the children to move with ease around the home. The childminder uses her knowledge of the children's development to provide them with activities which stimulate their interest and help them to make progress.

All required documentation is in place and kept up-to-date. The documentation is clear and contributes to children's safety, care and general well-being. This is further enhanced by the childminder having a booklet that she gives to parents at the beginning of a placement. The booklet includes information about herself and her family, as well as several written policies. As a result, children's all round care is enhanced.

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 low level glass in the doors leading to the hall are safe
- ensure children are able to choose from a varied selection of toys that are easily accessible
- further enhance the quality of care provided by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework to guide the childminding practice
- continue to increase toys and equipment that reflect equal opportunities.

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