

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY358122
Inspection date	26 June 2008
Inspector	Joan Isabel Madden
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 2007. She lives with her partner and three children aged 13 years, eight years and five years. They live in a house in Oldfield Brow, Altrincham, close to shops, parks, pre-school and school. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding; this includes the lounge, kitchen and downstairs toilet. Additionally the back bedroom on the first floor is used for young children to sleep in. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time. There are currently three children on roll aged from one year to 10 years. They attend on a part time basis. The childminder would support children with learning difficulties and disabilities and who speak English as an additional language. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Generally sensible procedures are followed by the childminder to protect the children from illness and infection. The house and equipment are clean and organised. The nappy changing procedure is acceptable and young children are reassured as she changes them. Children understand simple good health and hygiene practices, as the childminder explains to them why they need to follow these routines. They eat their food at the kitchen table and they have their noses wiped as necessary. Children wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day. However, there are no hand washing facilities in the downstairs toilet and they wash their hands at the kitchen sink with everybody using the same towel. These arrangements increase the risk of cross contamination of germs. Children are treated appropriately for minor injuries as the childminder is qualified in first aid and there is a fully stocked first aid box. Documentation relating to medical emergencies, accidents and medication is correctly maintained, helping to underpin sensible procedures.

Although the parents provide their children's meals the childminder has a sound understanding of how to provide nutritious and appropriate food. She provides healthy snacks consisting of a balance of fruit, carbohydrates and yoghurts. However, fresh drinking water is not sufficiently promoted. The childminder records the children's dietary needs on their personal records and is aware of the importance of meeting these. The children are learning where food comes from as they help to grow tomatoes in the garden.

Daily routines include activities to help children develop physical skills, widen their boundaries, and develop a healthy lifestyle. They play out in the garden in fine weather and make regular visits to the local park. Children are able to rest according to their needs. They enjoy a warm, supportive relationship with the childminder, helping to promote their emotional well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and secure environment that is suitable for its purpose. Welcome signs help the children to feel a sense of belonging. Generally the childminder is suitably equipped to provide care and a range of activities for the children. However, resources to encourage sensory exploration are limited. Resources are arranged so they are easily accessible. Children confidently choose and change activities throughout the day with positive encouragement and guidance from the childminder. This helps their decision making skills and independence. Toys and materials are safe, clean and well-maintained. The childminder has high quality baby and toddler equipment to underpin the sound care of the very young.

Children are cared for in a secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment that is suitable for children. The childminder has sensible safety measures in place. These include a safety gate at the lounge door, the windows and door being secure, smoke alarms on every level of the house and electric sockets being covered. There are clearly defined procedures for the emergency evacuation of the building. The children are made aware of their own safety as the childminder encourages them to tidy up to prevent them from tripping over toys.

The childminder has a positive attitude towards protecting children from harm. However, their welfare is not fully safeguarded because the childminder is not secure in her knowledge and understanding of the procedures to follow in the event of a concern.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder is committed and enthusiastic. The children have bonded well with her and are happy and settled. The children experience a structured day that includes them taking part in child initiated and adult led activities. The childminder interacts with children throughout the day. She perceptively judges when to offer support and when to let the children play independently. The childminder provides them with appropriate activities to promote their development and acquisition of skills. The children enjoy joining in with action songs and listening to stories. As they complete puzzles with the theme of fruit they are encouraged to name the fruits and talk about their likes and dislikes. They then go on to count the pieces of fruit. The childminder gives the children gentle encouragement to persevere with activities, which helps to promote their concentration skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for by the childminder who works with parents to meet individual children's needs and ensures they are included fully in the life of the setting. Children and the childminder have positive relationships, which helps to promote the children's confidence. The childminder interacts well with the children offering them appropriate support, helping them to feel a sense of belonging and become aware of their own needs and the needs of others. The childminder demonstrates a positive attitude to equal opportunities and learning difficulties and disability issues. However, there are insufficient resources and activities provided to encourage the children to develop positive attitudes.

The children are well behaved. There are positive strategies in place to encourage the children to cooperate. They are learning that there are boundaries and times when they play independently. Children are encouraged to tidy up play materials when they have finished playing, helping them to understand responsible behaviour.

The childminder has built up pleasing relationships with parents. They work well together and talk about any issues. Parents are well informed about the provision and events in their children's lives. The childminder spends time with the parents when they exchange information on their practices and thereby promotes continuity of care for the children. The childminder has built up an established routine that complies with the parent's wishes.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is conscientious, committed and shows concern for the well-being of all children. She has a sound understanding of the conditions of her registration and is working within these. Suitable vetting procedures ensure children are protected and cared for by the childminder. The children benefit from an organised day. They take part in adult-led and child-initiated activities.

Policies and procedures work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. The childminder ensures she informs Ofsted of any significant events. 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):

- improve the facilities for children to wash and dry their hands to prevent the spread of infection
- provide fresh drinking water at all times
- secure knowledge and understanding of the child protection procedure and ensure that it complies with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).
- provide the children with resources and activities that promote positive images of a diverse society.

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