

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number 312103
Inspection date 27 November 2007
Inspector Judith Anne Kerr

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 1996. She lives with her husband and adult daughter in the Mossley area of Tameside. Minded children have access to the living and dining room, toilet and kitchen of the childminder's house. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for four children on a variety of placements. The childminder attends the local adult and toddler group on a regular basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's house is clean and well maintained. Children are starting to understand the importance of keeping themselves healthy. They develop healthy routines, such as washing their hands after going to the toilet or before snacks. The childminder has an appropriate sick child policy which protects children from the spread of infection and helps them stay healthy. She has an up to date first aid certificate so if children have an accident while in her care she

can provide the appropriate treatment. Systems are in place for recording accidents and medication but these

some times lack details, such as the date, time, name or dosage of the medication.

Children benefit from a variety of opportunities to develop their large muscle skills and coordination during indoor and outdoor activities. They enjoy fresh air and exercise each day. They use wheeled toys, swings, climbing frames and slides at toddler groups, parks and in the childminder's garden. Babies are supported appropriately when learning to walk.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that she is aware of and meets the children's individual dietary and health needs. Children enjoy healthy snacks, such as fruit, toast or crackers. Homemade meals, such as roast dinners help the children to develop a healthy approach to eating. The children are provided with regular drinks to quench their thirst.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children move confidently around the childminder's house. They safely access age appropriate toys from the suitable selection of well maintained resources available to them. These cover all areas of development, are stimulating and provide challenges for the children being cared for.

Some safety measures are in place that reduce the risk of accidental injuries to children, such as a fire blanket in the kitchen and smoke alarms at both levels of the home. However, low level sockets, an air freshener, sharp knives and cleaning materials are accessible to the children. These pose a risk to children's safety. The childminder supervises the children closely while allowing them to develop skills and understand routines that enable them to keep themselves safe. There are routines in place, such as not climbing on the furniture, tidying toys off the floor, ensuring that they are appropriately strapped in the car and procedures for crossing the road safely.

Children's welfare is promoted as the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and of her role within them. She can recognise the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and knows who to contact in the event she has any concerns about the children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children share warm relationships with the childminder. She spends time on the floor talking and playing with them. She gives children appropriate physical contact, such as cuddles, speaks in soft tones and smiles, as a result they are settled and happy in the friendly atmosphere created in her home. The children benefit from sleep and feeding routines which are consistent with their experiences at home and help them settle well.

The childminder makes good use of local amenities to provide a variety of play environments for the children and to increase their awareness of the world around them. The children enjoy trips out to the park and shops where they can feed the ducks, enjoy playing on the large equipment and learn about the local environment. Young children benefit from regular visits to local toddler groups where they can socialise, play and learn alongside other children.

Resources are arranged accessibly which enables the children to make their own choices and develop independence. The childminder responds to the baby's babbles and gestures, introduces new words and sounds and sings songs, such as 'Old Macdonald', this reinforces early speech patterns and encourages the acquisition of language. Early counting skills are introduced through everyday routines as the childminder counts from one to five as the pieces of the puzzle go in the box. Children have opportunities to learn new skills and engage in a range of age appropriate activities which they clearly enjoy. For example, older children make cards for birthdays and Easter, draw with stencils and thread the cards.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children become aware of diversity and develop their understanding of others as the childminder interacts with them in a way that promotes equality of opportunity. She talks to children about differences that they observe and teaches them to treat each other with care and respect. They access toys and books that reflect positive images of the society in which we live. The childminder demonstrates a positive approach towards the inclusion of all children.

The childminder has appropriate expectations of children and clear strategies for managing behaviour. These are shared verbally with parents when their children settle. The children behave well. Lots of praise, such as 'clever girl' followed by a clap for young children encourages positive behaviour. The children share, take turns and support one another. For example, the older children help younger children and include them in their play.

The childminder works closely with parents to ensure that she meets children's individual needs and maintains consistency of care. She shares information daily when children are dropped off and collected. For example, she discusses what children have eaten, their general well-being, where they have been, who they have played with and what they have or have not enjoyed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder organises her time in a way that enables her to meet the needs of the children she cares for. She encourages them to make choices and engage in a wide variety of activities in the home, at adult and toddler groups and on trips to other local facilities. She shows enjoyment and commitment to her role as childminder and attends training, such as first aid to further develop her childcare practice.

The necessary documentation and records are in place to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. However, medication records lack detail which means parents are not kept fully informed.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to improve her knowledge of local child protection procedures; implement systems to record incidents and existing injuries; make documentation relating to childminding readily accessible; increase resources to promote children's awareness of diversity issues; make the garden secure and re-fit the smoke alarms.

The childminder has secured her garden gate and re-fitted smoke alarms at both levels of her home. She understands her responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children from harm and abuse and has procedures in place to record any incidents or existing injuries. Resources which reflect diversity have been increased and help children understand the world in which they live. All documentation relating to childminding is readily available to Ofsted and parents. As a result, children's safety and well-being is enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- minimise hazards to children from cleaning materials, sharp knives, air fresheners and low level sockets
- ensure full details are recorded in medication records.

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