

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY251273
Inspection date	11 June 2007
Inspector	Michele Anne Villiers
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 good. 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 2003. She lives with her husband and two children aged seven and three in a suburb of Liverpool. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five and one over five before and after school. The childminder occasionally works with an assistant and may care for a maximum of 10 children at any one time when with the assistant. Children attend the local toddler group with the childminder.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Suitable steps are taken to help prevent the spread of infection and promote the children's good health. The home is clean and well maintained, and on arrival children remove their outdoor shoes in order to protect the floor where they sit and play. Children learn about personal

hygiene. They are reminded to wash their hands at appropriate times, and have a named bag with their own flannel, towel and toothbrush. However, there is not a nappy change mat for babies and toddlers. Nappy change takes place either on the floor or on the childminder's lap, posing a possible risk of contamination or cross infection.

Children benefit and learn about healthy choices through the balanced diet that is provided. Some meals are home made and suitably nutritious in order to promote the children's health, growth and development. The written menu includes hot meals, such as lasagne, vegetable casserole, and chicken nuggets, with accompanied vegetables or salad. Fruit is offered daily. Children have their own bottles of water or juice and freely help themselves to quench their thirst.

Fresh air and physical exercise are encouraged and outdoor activities are incorporated into the daily routine, helping to promote the children's well-being. Children access a garden with many toys and resources to foster their strength, stamina and coordination. They frequently walk to the local park where they can run around. Young children receive close support from the childminder, with cuddles and comfort when they are tired or fractious.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The home is secure and welcoming for children. Space is organised effectively in order to help keep children safe. They independently access a very good range of suitable toys and resources and have a designated room solely for play. Child size furniture enables young children to sit together in comfort. Most safety measures are in place within the home. However, a low level kitchen cupboard, where hazardous liquids are stored, does not have a safety catch. Although children are supervised in the kitchen this could compromise their safety.

Children learn about keeping themselves safe and the childminder constantly reminds them to be careful during play. They become aware of the importance of sun cream and wearing sun hats during the summer months. The childminder meticulously applies sun protection cream to children on all exposed areas, so 'Sally sun does not burn them'. She makes it fun and children laugh and giggle, helping to rub in the cream. Outside, children safely play in the shade of the gazebo. They practise fire evacuation with the childminder, and on outings they learn about road safety.

Children are further protected as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She has attended courses on safeguarding children and has comprehensive documentation and written information about possible signs and symptoms of abuse. She has devised written procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child, or if an allegation is made whilst a child is in her care, which is shared with the parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy play experiences that are challenging and help to stretch and develop their learning. They eagerly choose from a variety of toys and happily interact with the childminder, forming close relationships. The childminder supports the children well to foster their language and communication skills. For example, whilst playing with cars and vehicles she asks them about ambulances and police cars, what they are used for and where they go. Children enjoy looking at books, choosing from the excellent range made available. Young children listen to

stories and explore tactile picture books, feeling the puppy's fluffy tail and looking at his shiny collar.

The children use their imagination well, pretending to cook and wash dishes in the home play area. They enjoy dressing up in different outfits, and playing with dolls and small world people. Children explore a variety of textured materials when creating colourful collage pictures, using paint, glue, glitter and cotton wool. Songs are introduced into their play, such as 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star', whilst looking at picture books. Children become competent learners and make connections during play. They identified colour, finding the 'red' or 'yellow' plastic monkey which they skilfully hook onto the branches of the green tree. During outside play the childminder introduces bubbles into the water trough, and children explore natural materials, such as sea shells in the sand pit.

Outdoor play is very much incorporated into the daily routine and children develop good coordination and balance as they play on slides, swings and the small trampoline. They become competent at manoeuvring pedal cars and wheeled toys around the patio. Children socialise with others during weekly visits to the local playgroup. The childminder collates photographs of the children playing. She displays them in an album, under the headings taken from the 'Birth to three matters' framework, and shares them with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about diversity, their culture and culture of others. They access a suitable range of toys, such as dolls, books and puzzles that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. 'Welcome', written in different languages, is displayed on a poster. Children enjoy celebrating festivals, such as birthdays and Christmas. They are valued as individuals and develop a strong sense of belonging.

The childminder is calm and consistent in her approach to managing the children's behaviour. Children are gently encouraged to share and take turns, responding to comments, such as 'Will you share your toy when we go outside?', and 'Two more minutes and you must share your car'. Praise is used to foster the children's good behaviour. The childminder has gathered extensive information with regard to handling children's behaviour in a positive environment, and has devised a written behaviour management policy.

Parents are welcomed into the home at any time and information is shared through informal daily discussion. The complaints procedure is clearly displayed for parents to see, and any recorded complaints are made available, in line with Ofsted guidelines. Parents receive a written information pack outlining the childminder's policies and procedures. A daily diary is completed on babies under 12 months which parents may take home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is keen to improve on her knowledge and skills in order to promote the care and welfare of all children. She has accessed many training sessions and is currently completing her National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Childcare. She uses her knowledge and information from courses to provide interesting activities and play opportunities, and to help ensure the children's welfare is met. The home is suitably organised and children have sufficient space to freely move around.

There are many written policies and procedures, and documentation is well organised for the effective management of the provision. The childminder is fully aware of informing Ofsted of any changes to her circumstances. 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 it was recommended that the childminder should acquire more resources reflecting positive images of race, culture, disability and gender, and obtain information about the procedures to follow should there be any child protection concerns. The childminder has purchased dolls, books, puzzles and small world people that reflect positive images of diversity in order to help children learn about the world in which they live. Since the last inspection the childminder has attended a course on child protection and has a wide range of information with regard to the procedures to follow should she have any concerns about a child whilst in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 good. 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):

- provide a suitable mat to help minimise the risk of cross infection when changing nappies
- place safety catches on any low level kitchen cupboards where dangerous substances are stored.

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