

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY280593
Inspection date	20 March 2008
Inspector	Jean Evelyn Thomas

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 2004. She lives with her husband and children aged nine and 12 in Heswall, Wirral. 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 five children at any one time and is currently minding three children over five before and after school. The childminder drives and walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a rabbit.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean environment where effective procedures contribute to preventing the spread of infection. For example, the routine for cleaning the play materials and the use of individual towels for washing hands. These are marked with the children's initial to be accurately identified. Children understand the importance of washing their hands after certain activities and before eating to protect themselves from germs. Children drink from their

own beakers identified by their colour. The clear written sick child policy is in place and meets the needs of all the children who attend. Written permission is obtained from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment. The childminder is qualified to administer first aid to ensure correct procedures are followed in the event of an accident.

Children enjoy a varied and nutritious diet. All foods are home cooked. The childminder works with parents to ensure foods are not offered which may trigger an allergic reaction and to promote healthy eating habits. The children have a snack and a substantial meal after school. Vegetables and fruit is incorporated into the daily diet. For example, children eat raw carrots for their snack and choose from a selection of fruits for desert. Drinks are within children's sight or reach at all times, ensuring that they remain hydrated.

Children enjoy a good range of activities to develop their physical abilities and promote a healthy life style. The garden is used for outdoor play throughout the year. There is a wide range of large outdoor equipment including slide, swings, swing boat and basket ball net. They learn to value and understand the benefits of exercise and the fresh air. In the morning they form part of the walking bus to school . In the afternoon the childminder parks the car away from the school and the children benefit from the walk through the country park to the vehicle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming environment. The setting is well-maintained and children move around their immediate environment with ease and confidence. A good range of resources are available in suitable storage areas where children confidently help themselves. Play equipment is regularly rotated from those in storage to provide variety and maintain children's interest. The childminder is a user of the toy library to further increase the range of play materials. The play equipment is in good condition, well organised and the childminder ensures games are complete for children's satisfaction. Fiction and reference books are set out at a low level to encourage children to select and enjoy. Comfortable seating is situated in the lounge to meet the individual needs of the children if they want to rest and relax.

Children are cared for in a safe and secure environment. Children learn about what is dangerous and how to keep themselves safe when they practise emergency evacuation procedures with the childminder on a regular basis. They learn to follow clear procedures regarding road safety and are secured in appropriate seating when being transported. Children know the safety procedures in the home. For example, they do not enter the kitchen if the cooker is in use and the childminder is not in that room. Informal risk assessments are completed to help the childminder to identify and minimise potential risks and the childminder maintains a high level of supervision at all times which contributes to the children's safety.

The childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and her responsibility in following procedures to safeguard children. This knowledge has been further enhanced through training. She discusses with parents her role and the procedure she is required to follow if she has concerns about a child in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and have a positive, warm relationship with the childminder. The childminder supports children and becomes actively involved in their play, which increases their sense of

security. The children talk to the childminder in a relaxed and comfortable manner about events of their school day and subjects which are of interest to them. The childminder listens and responds positively to the children.

On arrival from school the children quickly settle into activities of their choice. As a group they decide to play a particular board game. The childminder is mindful of the varying ages of the children and suggests they play a different version of the game which would ensure all ages are included, this is agreed. The children organise the game with laughter and good humour. The older children are considerate towards the younger children playing by patiently explaining the rules. The game sustains the interest of the children, they remain focused and have lots of fun. Children decide to complete their homework. The childminder facilitates this request by providing the paper and writing materials needed. The computer is available to support children with homework and for their entertainment. They enjoy their time with the childminder as she is fully committed to her role of caring for the children and providing a stimulating environment.

The childminder is fully aware of the varying needs of children after a busy day at school. The activities are primarily child led to meet the preferences and interests of the children. Activities, such as baking or craft are planned. However, the children are not expected to participate if they do not wish to. They regularly visit parks and the beach on the way home from school for children to enjoy open spaces and energetic play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder treats the children with equal concern. Children's individuality and their preferences are respected which contributes to their confidence and self-esteem. All children have equal access to the play materials and activities. There are resources which reflect the diversity of society helping children to learn about the world around them.

Children's behaviour is good. The childminder shows a genuine interest in what children are doing and saying and acts as a good role model. The childminder uses effective strategies to promote positive behaviour by being calm, consistent and giving lots of praise. Through explanation children learn the rules and the realistic boundaries within the home. They are offered appropriate explanations, according to their level of understanding, to help them to consider the consequences of their actions. The childminder discusses her strategies with parents before the arrangement commences.

Children's individual needs and welfare is promoted through the childminder's positive relationship with parents. There are daily opportunities for parents and the childminder to exchange information. The childminder has prepared an information leaflet about the service which is given to parents. As part of her training the childminder prepared some written policies, however, these are not readily available to parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Since the last inspection the childminder has completed the level three National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) in early years and attended training to increase her knowledge and support children. Although she is not currently minding younger children she has familiarised herself with the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children benefit from the childminder organising her time and resources effectively. For example, the after school snack and meals are prepared as much as possible before the children arrive, enabling the childminder to devote her time to the children. She facilitates transporting the children to and from after school activities.

The required records are maintained and conform to the code of confidentiality. The childminder has not prepared a system to record information in the event of a complaint being made. The organisation of information to support the service provided for children's welfare is satisfactory because some information can not be easily found, for example, the information regarding communicable illnesses. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has completed the recommendations raised. It was recommended that she extended the range of resources which promote equal opportunities. The childminder has a selection of books and uses the lending library to loan play materials to support children's understanding about the diversity of society. As recommended the childminder now practises the emergency evacuation plan with the children to help them learn to look after themselves.

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 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):

- further develop the written information given to parents about the child care practices, including policies and procedures
- develop a system to record complaints and improve the organisation of information to support children's welfare.

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