



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY295755
Inspection date	18 October 2006
Inspector	Christine Fraser Turner
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 three children aged 15, four and one year in Blackburn. She uses the whole of the ground floor and one bedroom on the first floor for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden to the rear of the property for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children. There is one child under five who attends full-time and one child aged four, cared for before and after school. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The family has guinea pig as a family pet.

The childminder holds a nursery nursing child care qualification. She is a member of The National Childminding Association. She visits childminder drop-in groups and takes children on visits to local parks and walks in the local area.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very well protected from infection are well taken care of if they have an accident or become ill because the childminder follows current health and hygiene guidelines, policies and procedures. Children learn to understand simple health and hygiene practices through the childminder offering clear explanations to children why they wash their hands, for example, after using the toilet. A poster, made by the children, is placed at child height as a reminder to children to wash their hands.

Children are actively encouraged to learn about healthy lifestyles through the provision a first class range of healthy snacks. The childminder gathers inspiring information from a wide variety of sources on healthy diets for children. A chart, prominently placed in the kitchen, enables children to look at it and see what a suitable portion of fruit or vegetable is for the age of a child. They learn about the importance of keeping their teeth clean through daily cleaning and informative booklets on dental hygiene that are shared with parents.

The individual dietary needs are met extremely well due to highly effective communication between the childminder and parents. Children eat an excellent range of healthy snacks which include bread sticks and fruit. They have good access to drinks and are able to choose from milk, water or apple juice. Children rest and sleep according to their needs. Meaningful communication between the childminder and parents enables individual children's routines to be adjusted to meet their needs for each day. Large bean bags provide a comfortable seating for older children to rest in addition to comfortable adult furniture in the lounge.

Children enjoy a wealth of physical activities both in and out of doors. This includes the use of plastic play suits and wellingtons so children can enjoy outdoor play during poor weather. Children benefit from the use of additional equipment from the toy library, for example, the caterpillar tunnel which is used both inside the home and in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor environment. Children have access to a well planned playroom where they have easy access to an excellent range of toys and equipment for children of all ages whilst still taking account of safety issues for young children. Most aspects of the outdoor area are safe and the childminder plans to ensure children do not have access to the greenhouse.

Children are learning to keep themselves safe. For example, they learn about safe evacuation of the premises in case of emergency as the childminder discusses her fire plan with them and familiarises them with the sound of the smoke alarm. Children are kept safe on outings as the childminder places a strong emphasis on educating children and teaching them how to cross the road safely, for example, using a video and talking to children about holding hands when they cross the road.

Children are safeguarded because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding of her role in protecting children. However, she is not fully familiar with who should be notified initially to share concerns. A child protection policy is in place and shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy in the setting. Their individual needs are met extremely well as the childminder calls on her varied child care experiences to plan first class projects to capture children's interest. They benefit from the childminder's excellent planning that ensures additional resources are available to make activities more interesting for children, for example, the inclusion of a story sack for the hungry caterpillar that inspired children to make their own book of what the caterpillar ate.

Children benefit from the childminder's first class understanding of child development as she uses her knowledge to plan an outstanding range of activities for children, including outings. She uses her careful observations in order to plan activities for children that are appropriate for their stage of development and help them progress to the next stage.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are cared for by the childminder who works effectively with parents to meet individual children's needs and ensure that children are fully included in the life of the setting. Children benefit from a well planned environment that promotes equality of opportunity through an excellent range of toys that all children have good access to. They are able to make their own decisions for play. Children take part in planned activities and have good access to a wide range of resources which help them value diversity. They have frequent outings where they learn about their local community, such as trip to feed the ducks.

Children's behaviour is managed consistently and they are learning to respond to appropriate expectations from their behaviour. Children are praised for wanted behaviour and the childminder's behaviour management policy is shared with parents.

Parents and carers are well informed about their child's day through both written and verbal communication. Good use of the daily diary ensures that individual children's care needs are met very effectively. Parents are informed of the childminder's comprehensive policies at introductory meetings before their child attends. Parents know how to make a complaint because the procedure is clearly displayed by the front door. However, the childminder has not yet updated the method to record any written complaints following changes in regulations.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a suitable adult who ensures that children are always supervised whilst in her care. Children benefit from the childminder's commitment to continual improvement

through training and now uses 'Birth to three matters' framework when planning for children under three years of age. Good use of time and space ensure that children are very well supported by the childminder which contributes to children's good health, safety, enjoyment and achievement.

Polices work well in practice and promote children health, safety, enjoyment and achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. Record keeping systems are used well to meet children's needs.

Overall, the provision meets 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 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):

- ensure that local procedures are followed when reporting any child protection concerns
- review the current method to record complaints to ensure it meets the changes in regulations.

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