



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY294786
Inspection date	22 June 2006
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 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 2005. She lives with her husband and three children aged six, nine and 11 in the Lee Park area of Liverpool. The whole of the ground floor 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 two children under five. She occasionally works with an assistant. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends local toddler groups with the children. The family has a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is generally kept clean and most areas appropriately maintained. Children learn about personal hygiene and are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before meal times. The childminder implements satisfactory hygiene practices when changing nappies and raises young children's awareness by washing their hands after their nappy change. Suitable documentation is in place for the recording of the administration of medication, and any accidents that occur, further safeguarding the children. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate in order to attend to minor injuries.

Children have substantial meals for their growth and development. They enjoy toast and fruit for breakfast, and have a hot meal, such as fish fingers, sausages, or pasta with vegetables at lunchtime. The food is reasonably balanced, with some nutritional value to encourage children to make healthy choices. Children are offered drinks of juice or milk throughout the day, with water provided at lunch time. Water is not freely available for children to help themselves if they are thirsty. Most food is suitably stored. However, the containers within the fridge are broken and cracked with some stale food spillage on them, and there is not a fridge thermometer, to ensure that food is correctly stored without risk of contamination.

Children benefit from regular physical activity. They have frequent trips to the local park to run around, and enjoy outings to organised activity centres, such as 'Charley Chalks', where they can access a ball pool and climbing equipment. In the garden they play on wheeled toys, and older children use the large trampoline. Children enjoy singing and dancing to music, and babies and young children have sufficient space to learn to walk and run. The childminder gives young children good attention, with hugs and cuddles, fostering their emotional well being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

The home is kept secure and suitably organised with appropriate furniture and equipment. Children choose activities from a wide range of toys, suitable for their age and ability. Outside children play on the large trampoline with safety netting secured around so they do not fall off. However, parental consent has not been obtained for children to play on such a large piece of equipment.

Appropriate safety measures are in place within the home. For example, safety gates are positioned to prevent children from entering the kitchen or accessing the stairs. Smoke alarms are fitted and a fire blanket is stored in the kitchen. Children learn about safety and keeping themselves safe when practising the emergency evacuation procedure, and discussing road safety whilst on walks. Throughout the daily routine the childminder gently reminds young children to be careful when running around.

The childminder has a good knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. She has completed a training course and is aware of the correct procedure to follow should she have any concerns, helping to safeguard children.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle well in the childminder's home and confidently interact with the childminder. They develop mathematical skills as they count the number of blocks when building a tall tower. The childminder seizes appropriate opportunities to discuss colour with the children, saying 'What colour is that block?', and 'Can you find another red one?' The childminder constantly talks to the children and sits on the floor with them to motivate their interest and play. Young children have fun using their imagination and excitedly push the dolls' buggy to the shops, saying 'Baba, shops' with prompts from the childminder.

Children enjoy playing musical instruments, making as much noise as possible, banging the tambourine and shaking the large rattle, whilst singing 'The wheels on the bus'. They have opportunities to paint and draw, and to watch children's television and look at books. Weekly visits to the local toddler group enable children to socialise with others and access different toys and activities. They learn about the local community through walks to the shops and local park.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals and receive good attention, helping them to develop a sense of security and fostering their self-esteem. They learn about race and other cultures through some toys and resources that reflect positive images, such as books and dolls. They play with multicultural instruments, supplied by the local toy library, for example African hand rattles and bongo drums. All children have access to all toys, and activities are not gender specific.

Children are well behaved and the childminder uses positive praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour. Older children are kind and considerate to young children and learn to share and take turns. Children are polite, and demonstrate good manners, saying 'Please' and 'Thank you'. They are encouraged to tidy their toys away before starting on new activities, and house rules are discussed with older children. Children benefit from the satisfactory relationship the childminder has with parents. Information is shared through informal daily discussion and appropriate documentation is in place.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder is keen to improve upon her knowledge and skills in order to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. She has accessed training on new initiatives, such as Birth to three matters, in order to implement the framework. She provides a satisfactory balance of opportunities and play experiences for children both inside the home and outside.

Most regulatory documentation is in place, for the effective management of her provision. The childminder occasionally employs an assistant to work alongside her. However, some details about the assistant have not been documented and filed, in order to be available for inspection. Policies and procedures are discussed with parents, and records about individual children are stored appropriately. The childminder is aware of the need to notify Ofsted about any changes to her circumstances. Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection two actions were applied. The childminder had to complete an appropriate first aid training course, and to ensure all areas of the premises, in particular the downstairs toilet, are kept clean. The childminder has completed first aid training and holds an appropriate certificate. The downstairs bathroom has been redecorated with new flooring, and the home is generally clean.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection.

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):

- ensure the fridge is clean and maintained at an appropriate temperature for the safe storage of food
- ensure children have easy access to drinking water at all times
- obtain parental consent for children to play on the outdoor trampoline
- keep a record of any assistant's details, including information about training, qualifications and vetting.

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