



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	502162
Inspection date	08 August 2006
Inspector	Margaret Baines
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 has been a registered childminder since June 2001. She lives in a semi detached house in the Marton area of Blackpool with her husband and son. Presently she is caring for five children. Facilities comprise of a lounge and kitchen dining room, a first floor room and the bathroom. There is a garden to the rear and a park opposite the house. The family has several fish, a budgie and a rabbit as pets.

The childminder holds the NVQ level 3 in childcare and education and is also part of the childminding network. She receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a good range of activities, which contribute to their health and well-being. Activities are planned to ensure the children's physical skills develop well. They enjoy regular outdoor activities, which promotes their good health and development. For example, they can freely access the outdoor play area enjoying the resources out of doors.

Children are secure and cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They are developing an understanding of why they must wash their hands at certain times of the day to avoid ill health from the exposure to germs. Children have their health needs met well as the childminder has available the required written information and permissions from parents should a child become unwell in her care.

Children are beginning to understand the benefits of healthy eating. Children enjoy fresh fruit and vegetables daily as the childminder encourages the five a day philosophy. The baby enthusiastically enjoyed her banana and the older children enjoyed tangerines and apples, an example of the healthy snacks provided. The childminder is mindful of parental requests and children's preferences in all aspects of the food she serves to ensure a continuity of care between home and the setting. Children's dietary needs are adequately met in the care of the childminder through her careful planning and attention to detail.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment for children is clean and bright. It offers different areas where they can choose to play. Space is used creatively so that there is quiet, active and imaginative play opportunities catered for. The areas for indoor play are well equipped to promote choice for the children. The outdoor area also houses a selection of toys, which extend children's physical development through planned activities. Toys and equipment are organised in a way that allows children easy access, for example, toy boxes and low level storage are available.

Children are kept safe and secure within this environment and when on outings as the childminder has due regard for safety procedures. She keeps the front door locked at all times, has safety equipment in place and ensures children travel in a vehicle, which has appropriate restraints. Emergency fire procedures are in place, although are not practised on a regular basis to familiarise the children with the method of evacuation quickly. Children learn the importance of safety for both themselves and for each other through careful explanation by the childminder. For example, they are reminded to walk and not to run when in her care.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of the responsibilities for recording and reporting alleged abuse of a child and maintains contact details of relevant bodies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children feel relaxed and secure because they settle very well with the childminder and others in the setting. They enjoy their play and this extends outside the home by partaking in outings and regular outdoor play. Children spend their time purposefully and they develop well in all areas of learning. They have good opportunities to develop language, mathematical thinking and creative play through stories, games, role play and good interaction with the childminder. Children enjoy creative play making posters, cards and models. They are very proud of their achievements and eager to share them with others, which promotes their self-esteem very well.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of the ages and stages of development of the children in her care and how to meet their needs, promote their development and ensure their well being. She plans activities, which offer a very good range of experiences. In particular the children enjoyed a visit to a local activity centre. They also love the outdoor play in the childminder's home where they enjoy the slide and the sit and ride toys. Younger children enjoy tactile toys, the musical play mat, dolls, bricks and the cars.

The childminder uses 'Birth to three matters', a framework to develop care and learning for young children. Children have good opportunities to enjoy a fun and stimulating day within a very relaxed and caring environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals as the childminder gets to know them well so helping them to feel settled in her care. They experience a positive view of the wider world through access to toys, which reflect diversity in a positive way.

Children effectively learn about good behaviour through positive reinforcement and good role modelling by the childminder who is calm and caring. She takes the time to explain and uses appropriate strategies taking into account individual levels of understanding. Children therefore, learn to show care and concern for others and are kind and considerate in sharing toys and play together harmoniously.

The childminder ensures information is obtained from parents and is used effectively to meet the needs of the children. She in turn shares information about herself, which forges positive links between home and the setting so benefiting the children by making them feel secure within this home. Aspects of practice are shared within policies and procedures to keep parents informed of requirements, which must be met and records are signed appropriately.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and settled within a well organised environment. There are effective and clear procedures in place to promote children's learning and development as well as their welfare. Documentation is appropriately shared and confidentiality is acknowledged. The record

of attendance is recorded clearly to show ratios are met confirming that children have appropriate support and supervision at all times. Written permissions are in place, which ensures parents are clear about all aspects of practice.

Children are looked after by the childminder in a safe secure environment where they have room to develop their independence and learning through well planned experiences. The childminder ensures that she develops her practice through access to training offered by the local authority. She has received the 'Birth to three matters' guidance, a framework for developing the care of children under three and uses this to enhance her practise to promote learning for younger children.

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 agreed to ensure glass within the display cabinet is made safe. She has replaced the cabinet with a new one that has safety glass in place. Therefore, she has enhanced the safety of the children in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

Ofsted received concerns relating to National Standard 6 Safety. An Ofsted Early Years childcare inspector visited the provision on 2 February 2006. Actions were raised and satisfactorily met by the registered provider. The provider remains qualified for registration.

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 children have the opportunity to practise the emergency evacuation procedure at regular intervals.

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