



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	322283
Inspection date	19 September 2006
Inspector	Margaret Patricia Mellor
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 1993. She lives with her husband and two grown up children in Liverpool. The front lounge and kitchen of the childminder's home are used for childminding. There is a secure fully enclosed garden for children's outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under eight years at any one time. There are six children on roll aged four to seven years and two children aged over eight years. Children attend during school term time only. The childminder walks to take or collect children from school and take them places.

The childminder receives support from the local authority. She is a member of the National Child Minding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted as the childminder acts in children's best interests when they are ill, which is supported by the sick child policy. The childminder ensures that children use sun creams, wear hats and play in the shade on hot days so parents' wishes are respected and children stay healthy. She has a relevant first aid certificate and regularly reviews the contents of the first aid box. This means that children's accidents are dealt with effectively and further safeguards their welfare.

Children build on their understanding of how to stay healthy through the childminders gentle reminders to flush the toilet and as she explains why being hygienic is important. They readily wash their hands after playing in the garden or going to the toilet and confidently talk about how this helps get rid of germs. The childminder has a good understanding of healthcare issues, for instance, wearing disposable gloves when dealing with cuts, wiping down surfaces and cleaning the toys. This helps to prevent the spread of cross-infection, promoting children's well-being.

Children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle is fostered and encouraged as they have a variety of fresh fruit at snack time and plenty of drinks when thirsty or after exercise. Children have treat, such as a small chocolate bar as they come out of school and the childminder agrees this with parents. There are effective procedures for sharing information about children's individual dietary needs so parents' wishes are respected and children remain healthy.

Children relish a range of activities that encourages them to be physically active. They benefit from fresh air everyday as they walk to or from school and respond with gusto as they play outdoors. They are keen to engage in games of football and skipping. Their coordination and spatial awareness skills are further promoted as they ride on wheeled toys, bounce on space hoppers and move to music. Children love tactile and manipulative activities, which means that children further develop their physical control through fun, play and learning experiences.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm and well maintained environment. They gain independence as they move freely and safely because the childminder's home is secure. This is supported by a password system for the collection of children in an emergency. Children's risk of accidentally injuring themselves is minimised as the childminder takes all the necessary precautions to ensure her home is safe. Children also enjoy a variety of safe challenges in a fully enclosed garden.

Children have access to a good range of quality toys and equipment that are suitable for their age while presenting them with appropriate challenges. The childminder follows appropriate health and safety procedures so that the resources are maintained well and children remain safe. Children's self-esteem is promoted as they independently search out play materials that

appeal to them from the toy boxes at child height. Children have much fun as they eagerly pursue interests that appeal to them and often encourage others to join in with them.

Children learn aspects of safety through the childminders gentle reminders about how to behave on school runs. They confidently talk about how they cross roads, stay close together and listen to adults. They regularly practice what to do in the event of a fire and there is plenty of discussion about workshops in school run by the police or fire officer. This contributes to children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe. Children's protection is further assured as the childminder has a strong understanding of indicators of abuse and what to do in the event of identifying a concern. This is well supported by the child protection policy and Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures, which means that the well-being of children in her care is a high priority.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's personal, social and emotional development is promoted because they are content and at ease in the childminder's home. They are happy to relax after school, engage in creative play and chat about what they are doing. Children gain independence as they spontaneously choose between playing indoors or in the garden. They have a good relationship with the childminder who spends time talking, listening and playing with the children. They are eager to share their ideas with the childminder and as a result children are confident to make their needs known to adults. Children develop an appreciation of the wider community as they play with the toys and celebrate different lifestyles in school. They have a good understanding of how to behave and keep themselves healthy and safe.

Children have a good time in the childminder's home because they are involved in a wide range of purposeful and fun, play opportunities, which actively engage their interests. They are motivated as they eagerly participate in creative activities, for instance, sewing, dressing up and as they make models with lego or play dough. Children take their imagination into the garden as they role play in the play house and play games of hide and seek. They have good opportunities to join in activities as they do jigsaws, draw and play with the small world toys. Children relish playing outdoors, riding on wheeled toys and especially enjoy swing rides when they go to the park, which builds on children's physical skills. They talk fondly about their family, friends and what they do at the weekend. They have a strong sense of belonging and are proud of their achievements, which they eagerly share with others. This promotes children's self-esteem and further enhances their after school experiences whilst in the childminder's care.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's home. They are very comfortable with their easy and relaxed relationships with the childminder, fostering children's sense of belonging. Children are valued as the childminder makes allowances for their different personalities and children respond warmly to her. All children are included and eagerly join in the activities.

Children develop positive attitudes towards others as they play with the multi cultural toys, dress up, read books, do jigsaws and celebrate festivals in school. This promotes children's understanding of different lifestyles and equality issues.

Children are encouraged to feel good about themselves as the childminder uses plenty of praise to acknowledge what children have done well, promoting a positive environment for children. The childminder is very attentive encouraging children to express their interests and talk about what they are doing. Children are happy and very involved in the activities and as a result behave very well. They are developing good social skills and a clear respect for others as they begin to understand what is expected of them. Children are courteous because they need few reminders about saying please and thank you. They share resources well and are supportive of one another as they willingly take turns and freely offer help when colouring in pictures.

Children's needs are met well as warm and friendly relationships have been established between the childminder and parents and information is shared regularly. Parents are warmly greeted as they come to collect their children and engage in easy conversation with the childminder about their activities and interests. They are given a policy pack about the childminder's activities, which they sign as part of the pre admission procedures. This reassures parents that children's interests come first. Parents say that they are very happy with their children's care, learning, environment and support offered by the childminder. This meaningful relationship between home and the childminder greatly contributes to children's continuity and the quality of care offered.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a safe, comfortable and well equipped environment because the childminder shows willingness to ongoing development and review of the activities. Well written policies and training, for instance child protection and first aid, assist the childminder in providing an effective service for the children. Children are well protected as the childminder ensures that non vetted persons are not allowed unsupervised access to them. Daily documentation, such as children's attendance, accident and medication records are maintained well and made available for inspection. However, there are no complaints records and the parental consent for emergency treatment does not clearly identify permission for seeking medical advice.

Children benefit from good adult support because the childminder is very experienced in child care as a parent and childminder for thirteen years. She keeps herself well informed of child care matters through the 'Who Minds' journal, regular contact with the local childminder network and accessing information off the internet, such as outdoor play. Children engage in purposeful activities, which contributes to the quality of care offered.

Children are cared for as part of the family in a very homely environment. The childminder plans the activities well so that children enjoy fresh air and benefit from a combination of adult guided and self-initiated play. Children are assisted to develop their independence and build on their friendships because the childminder has organised resources to meet the children's

needs. Children have plenty of fun as they spontaneously pursue interests that appeal to them. Information is shared with parents regularly, promoting children's continuity of care.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection two recommendations were raised to meet the National Standards and improve the quality of care offered. These related to health and safety. The childminder has provided fresh fruit everyday at snack time; and included more information in the children's fire drill practice records. This has safeguarded children and improved the quality of care offered.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- devise and implement complaints records in line with new guidance
- review the parental consent forms regarding emergency medical advice or treatment.

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