

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	310604
Inspection date	22 June 2007
Inspector	Lynne Naylor
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 1997. She lives with her partner and one of her children aged six years, in Southport. With the exception of the main bedroom, the whole of the first floor flat is used for childminding. The garden is not available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children aged under eight years at any one time. She is currently minding one child under five years. The family has no pets.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Young children learn the importance of good personal hygiene by following routines such as washing their hands before eating. Those children who provide their own toothbrush also learn how to care for their teeth. Children sleep on individual bedding and after each nappy change the mat is disinfected, therefore, children are protected against the risk of cross-contamination.

The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and acts in the children's best interests if they are ill. Children do not attend if they have a contagious illness, which prevents the spread of infection. Useful systems are in place for the recording of medicine administrations and accidents. However, not all parents have been asked to provide written consent for the seeking of medical advice and treatment in an emergency.

Children eat light meals, such as sandwiches and fruit for lunch. The foods provided are healthy, nutritious and planned in agreement with the children's parents. This means they meet children's individual dietary needs and their preferences. Children's health benefits from the availability of fruit, such as apples and bananas, for snacks. Young children easily access drinks when thirsty because their individual cups are kept visibly accessible. Through conversation and activities, children learn about foods and gain an understanding of the value of good nutrition.

Everyday, children enjoy the benefits of fresh air as they walk to school and visit local parks. They develop climbing and balancing skills as they use equipment in the park. Children's good access to small tools, such as pencils and crayons, and to activities, such as building with construction bricks, helps to develop their coordination and physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children confidently help themselves to books and toys which are set out in the living room by the childminder. These toys are regularly checked for safety and are appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. In the event of the stairs from this flat being inaccessible, evacuation procedures have been devised and agreed with the fire safety officer so children can leave safely in an emergency.

Indoors, hazards such as low-level glass and access to plug sockets, are identified and effectively minimised, consequently, children play in a safe environment. In the event of the childminder being distracted, it is not clear in the risk assessment how children are prevented from accessing the landing, neither is it clear what precautions are taken to prevent accidents in relation to the banister. However, children mainly play in the living room and when travelling across the landing, for example to the bathroom, they are supervised to keep them safe.

Children are kept safe on outings through the use of prams and walking reins. There is a written policy shared with parents regarding the transport of children in a vehicle, however, it does not accurately reflect the practice. Parental consent is not available in writing, so parents' views on the use of transport are not clear.

The childminder displays a satisfactory knowledge of child protection issues. She has useful procedures in place to protect children and the telephone number is readily available if it was required in an emergency. Children's safety, care and welfare are satisfactorily promoted.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children relate well to the childminder, who has a friendly and approachable manner. They develop good communication skills as she talks to them, reads stories, sings songs and extends their vocabulary. Different toys are attractively set out every day to provide a stimulating environment. Consequently, children help themselves to items from boxes, such as dolls and

accessories. Children enjoy role play activities, such as dressing-up and caring for dolls, and they take part in many creative activities, such as painting, cutting and gluing.

Children make satisfactory progress in all areas of their development. Sometimes, the childminder uses themes to plan and provide a range of interesting and stimulating activities which meet children's needs. Children effectively learn about their local community on daily outings to toddler groups, shops or the local park. They learn about their own culture when they make cards for Mother's Day and Father's Day and at Christmas, as they write letters to Santa and help to decorate the tree.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children receive praise and encouragement, which actively promotes their self-esteem and confidence. Through clear explanations, children learn to understand right from wrong. Children have some access to books and some small figures that reflect other cultures and positive images of disability, which promotes their awareness of diversity.

Positive relationships between the childminder and parents benefit the children by enhancing the consistency of care provided. Parents are warmly welcomed into the home and useful information is exchanged in order to meet the individual needs of the children. Parents are informed of their child's progress as the childminder verbally shares her observations of the children. However, parents' views relating to health and transport are not clear as the required parental consent signatures have not been obtained for some children. A system of recording and sharing complaints with parents has not yet been fully implemented, in line with recent amendments to the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy, relaxed and confident in this 'home from home' environment. They initiate their own activities within the routine features of the day and sometimes take part in planned activities, such as cutting and sticking. Children make satisfactory progress in all areas of their development. They relax watching television whilst sitting comfortably on the sofa or choose toys, such as the dolls and good range of accessories, to play imaginatively. The number of children being minded at any one time is small, which means the day's activities can be organised to meet their individual needs.

Most of the required documentation and record keeping systems are readily available. There is a register of attendance book, however, this is not completed for every child, and consequently, the record is not complete. Parents are verbally well informed about the provision and have access to some written statements, however, some are not useful as they do not accurately reflect the service. Important details about the children's likes, dislikes and medical history are readily available and used well to meet children's individual care and learning needs. 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, four recommendations were raised. The provider agreed to consider attending food hygiene training; develop knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities issues and ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources which

promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice; devise a system of recording medicine administrations; and submit to Ofsted the names and dates of birth of all family members and persons living in the household.

Since the last inspection, the provider has notified Ofsted of the names of family members and persons living in the household. She has attended training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework and her knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities issues is growing. Consequently, children have access to some activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She has made plans to attend recognised training on food hygiene. A useful medication policy has been devised and shared with parents. In addition, a form seeking parental permission for medicine to be administered and a separate one for recording any administrations have been devised and are ready for use. Therefore, satisfactory progress has been made towards meeting the recommendations.

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

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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):

- request written parental permission to the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- include in the risk assessment what precautions are taken to prevent accidents on the landing
- improve knowledge and develop systems for the recording of complaints, in line with regulations
- keep a daily record of the names of the children being looked after and their hours of attendance.

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