

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	502044
Inspection date	16 May 2007
Inspector	Ferroza Saiyed
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 registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and their five children aged between two and 14. The childminder offers care from her home in Morecambe.

Minded children have access to the whole of the house, which includes both the first and second floors of the home. There are toilet facilities located on the first and second floors and an enclosed outdoor play area for children to access. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding three children under the age of five at different times of the week.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and of the local Sure Start network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are sufficiently protected from infection and are taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. Relevant policies and procedures are in place, such as medication and accident records countersigned by parents to keep them informed of their children's welfare. Children are beginning to learn to understand simple health and hygiene practices, such as washing their hands before snack and after using the toilet. The childminder maintains good standards of hygiene and cleanliness in areas used by children to promote their good health.

Children are learning about healthy lifestyles when the childminder talks to them in an age-appropriate way about eating healthily and playing outside. There is suitable provision to support children's overall physical development in the back garden. After nursery, children are sometimes taken to the playground where they enjoy a range of physical activities. This promotes their physical development, which contributes to their good health.

They are encouraged to sit and feed themselves. This helps promote independence and they demonstrate good manners during snacks and meals which are a sociable time for them. The childminder takes into account individual dietary needs. The children are provided with healthy options to enable them to select good nutritious food, such as cereal, and a piece of fruit rather than biscuits.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a mostly safe environment where the childminder identifies and minimises most risks. However there are electrical leads on the floor in the bedrooms, this compromises children's safety. Children access a selection of age appropriate toys and activities. Children's safety is promoted because toys are well organised in boxes at their level and they are able to access these freely. Children are kept safe on outings and they know to hold the childminder's hand. Road safety is consistently reinforced through a road safety song which children know. Children learn about fire safety through practising the emergency evacuation procedure. They learn what is expected of them in order to leave the premises safely in an emergency. However, the childminder does not keep records of the evacuation and therefore, the practice is not evaluated. There is a plan for emergency evacuation but this does not include the second floor of the home.

The childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection procedures to follow if she is concerned for the well-being of children in her care. Therefore, children's welfare is safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and achieve as they are provided with a varied programme of good activities which meet their needs, and includes free choice of toys and equipment. They are provided with good opportunities which keep them mostly interested and occupied as they choose resources and make choices from the wide range of quality toys. This encourages children to make decisions in their play. The childminder routinely involves children in real life experiences,

such as visits to the park and toddler groups. This gives children the opportunity to be part of their local community and to develop their social skills.

The childminder sits, cuddles and talks to the children about what is happening; this encourages vocalisation by responding to the children's language. Children are developing their confidence by having very positive relationships with the childminder because the interaction is good. The childminder, although she encourages and plays with the younger children, does not plan to further promote young children's development. This is due to limitations in the childminder's knowledge of appropriate frameworks to support the development of children under three years. The childminder uses praise effectively and as a consequence children's self-esteem and feelings of self-worth are promoted.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder has a good understanding of equality of opportunity for all children and anti-discriminatory practice. She treats each child the same and discusses the importance of not discriminating between genders and allowing all children to play with all the equipment and resources. They are learning about the wider community through celebration of different festivals. There are adequate systems in place to provide for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The childminder has positive strategies in place, for example, they take responsibility for their behaviour as the childminder sets boundaries and guidelines which are appropriate and realistic for all. Children are beginning to understand consequences of their actions, as the childminder explains what is right and wrong in an age-appropriate way. Their good behaviour is acknowledged and valued.

The childminder fosters good relationship with parents by sharing information which contributes to the children's well-being. She provides verbal discussions on a daily basis to ensure parents are fully informed about her childcare practices. The childminder aims to develop a relationship based on openness and good communication.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The organisation of the setting is appropriate, with room for children to move freely and self-select resources. The childminder has developed a routine based on the needs of the children. As a result, children present as comfortable and relaxed, gaining enjoyment from the activities provided. The childminder has links with other childminders, which promotes children's social needs.

The childminder has all regulatory documentation in place which is maintained and up to date. The children's individual needs are promoted, aided by some written policies and procedures. Some information is displayed in the hall, such as the registration and insurance certificates; this provides parents with some information about her service.

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 build on the range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She has developed this aspect of practice further and children have access to a wide range of resources that reflect diversity. This has enhanced children's overall learning.

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

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):

- include the second floor in the evacuation plan and make sure the emergency evacuation is recorded and evaluated to further promote children's safety
- ensure that the bedrooms are safe and children are not exposed to hazards, such as the electrical leads, and make sure the stairs are safe
- plan a wider range of challenging activities to promote children's intellectual development by using the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

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