

Inspection report for early years provision

---

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY331814
<b>Inspection date</b>	14 June 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	June Cotton
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 inadequate – notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2007. She lives with her partner and two adult children in the suburbs of Liverpool. The childminder works with an assistant. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house 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 four children under five years. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable setting where appropriate hygiene procedures help prevent the spread of infection. The childminder has attended food hygiene and first aid training to ensure that the correct procedures are followed to keep the children healthy. The children develop their understanding of the importance of personal care, such as cleaning their

hands before eating. In addition, the children watch a video which explains to them the purpose of this process to protect themselves from the risk of infection because of germs. The children's diet is satisfactory and includes fresh fruit for snacks. Children are provided with water to drink throughout the day to keep themselves well hydrated.

Children are generally protected when they become unwell. The childminder follows the appropriate measures in making the children comfortable and contacting the parents. Children participate in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle, such as having regular fresh air and exercise. They have opportunities to develop their physical skills in the garden when they climb up slides and learn to pedal bikes.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is inadequate.

The children benefit from the comfortable environment where most aspects are safe. The children have access to a playroom where they can choose what they want to play with. Toys and equipment are well maintained and they are age and stage appropriate, however, the children's choices are limited. Additional resources are borrowed from the local toy library.

The garden is fully secure and there is plenty of space to run about and enjoy the outdoors. Good supervision in the home ensures that the children are kept secure. Children are developing an awareness of safety when off the premises as the childminder explains to them about road safety. She keeps them safe through the use of reins and wrist straps. The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection, however, she is unsure of the reporting procedures.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy an adequate balance of activities to support their all round development. The childminder takes children to toddler groups to do activities to support their social and physical development. She does not yet use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to help her find simple resources and ideas through domestic routines and equipment to promote their language and intellectual development. The childminder's settling in procedure for new children through visits helps them feel more familiar and comfortable in their care setting.

There are opportunities for children to be creative and to use their imagination through craft and art work. They enjoy drawing, painting and collage activities, such as drawing spiders. Children relish the opportunity for physical activity in learning to pedal bikes and running in the garden. Their small motor skills are developed when they build towers and complete jigsaws. They are learning songs, such as the alphabet song and are learning colours and shapes through simple games. They are learning about growing as they plant carrot seeds and watch the carrots grow.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Positive relationships are fostered with parents who are informed of their children's achievements. Parents' views are actively sought prior to the minding arrangement starting and the children and parents have opportunities to familiarise themselves with the setting through settling in visits. This contributes to the children being well settled and confident.

Information is shared with parents in informal chats at handover times to develop continuity of care for children.

Children's understanding of right and wrong is developed through the childminder using basic ground rules, such as sitting at the table to eat. They are learning to share and take turns during their play with support and guidance. Children are praised and encouraged on a regular basis and gradually develop good self-esteem and confidence.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Children have comfortable areas to rest or sit quietly and have space for active play. However, few toys are easily accessible for them to help themselves. Children are offered a balance of free play and adult directed activities. They benefit from daily fresh air and exercise when they play in the spacious garden and go on walks.

Documentation is not maintained appropriately, for example, the register is not recorded correctly, contracts and written details about children are insufficient. The childminder has not yet devised a system for recording complaints, neither is her registration certificate displayed. This is a breach of the National Standards and regulations. The children benefit from the additional adult support of the assistant as this offers them additional help and individual attention. Overall the provision does not meet the needs of the range of children for whom the childminder provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints 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. Since registration 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 QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) child protection procedures and who to contact if concerned about a child

- display the certificate during the hours minded children are present
- maintain an accurate record of children's attendance, including their hours of attendance
- ensure all the required documentation as required in regulations and the National Standards are maintained.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)