

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY349090
Inspection date	17 September 2007
Inspector	Michele Anne Villiers
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 2007. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and seven years in Liverpool. 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding two children aged under five and two children over five. The childminder regularly works with an assistant. When working with an assistant she is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time. The childminder either walks or transports children in a car to school, or visit places of interest. She has an early years childcare qualification.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder takes positive steps to help ensure that the children's health needs are met and they are protected against cross infection. Children learn the importance of personal hygiene. They use individual hand towels and a box of tissues is made freely available to wipe

their nose. A small step is used to aid the children's independence in the bathroom, and good hygiene care is taken during nappy changing.

The provision of nutritional meals and healthy snacks helps to foster the children's growth and development. Many meals are home made and the written menu clearly demonstrates a good balance with plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables. Drinking water is freely available and young children are encouraged to regularly quench their thirst. Topical activities also reinforce the children's understanding of 'healthy' foods. For example, they make collage pictures of 'summer food', cutting out and naming pictures of vegetables and fruit.

Children develop a very positive attitude to physical exercise and fresh air as part of their daily routine. The childminder chooses to walk to local schools when possible, and children play in the garden or have trips to the park each day. Babies are supported well whilst learning to crawl, stand and walk. They develop good coordination and body control, and have fun playing on wheeled toys and learning to kick and catch balloons. The routine of babies and young children is respected and they sleep and eat according to individual requirements.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for and well protected in a safe, secure and welcoming home. Children independently select from a wide range of good quality toys and resources. The childminder gives good attention to safety, both within the home and outside. Pictures on glass sliding doors are used to help remind children not to walk into them, and gates are appropriately positioned by the stairs.

Children learn about keeping themselves safe. They are gently reminded to be careful during play, and on outings road safety is discussed with older children. Young children are strapped into buggies, and reins or wrist straps are used when necessary. The childminder has devised a fire evacuation procedure. However, this has not yet been practised with the children in order for them to become aware of what to do in an emergency.

Children are further safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues. She has attended training and has devised written policies and procedures to share with parents, in line with current legislation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children happily settle in the childminder's care. They eagerly engage in a wide variety of interesting and stimulating activities, helping them make good progress in their all round development. For example, they enjoy art and craft, construction, stories, role-play, plus visits to the local playgroup, park and library. The play room is very child orientated and creatively organised in a homely environment.

Young children excitedly play with various sensory toys. They delight in the visual and sound effects of play gyms and interactive resources. The childminder supports children well. She sits on the floor with young children and uses good questioning to motivate their interest and foster their communication skills. She counts with the children, and discusses colour and shape. She uses repetitive language with young children to reinforce their learning and understanding.

Children learn to make connections. For example, toddlers discover that the toy truck will vibrate and shake when the attached string is pulled, laughing and giggling with delight.

Children particularly enjoy art and craft and explore a wide range of materials. Collage displays include the children's paintings of trees, leaves and butterflies, representing the summer. Older children contribute their own ideas and thoughts for 'themed' activities, such as 'The night sky', and learn about star constellations. Children are very much encouraged to use their imagination. They re-enact life at home through role play, and create their own play 'dens'. The childminder is knowledgeable about the 'Birth to three matters' framework and the Foundation Stage and uses these to plan her activities. She also gathers ideas from childcare brochures and magazines in order to provide appropriate and challenging play opportunities.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children feel secure in a welcoming environment. Babies and young children settle well as the childminder is aware of their needs and routine. They learn about diversity and the world in which they live through activities and some toys and equipment. However, there are limited toys reflecting positive images of race, culture, gender and disability.

The childminder is very calm and consistent in her approach and provides care in a positive environment, fostering the children's confidence and self-esteem. She uses good strategies to manage their behaviour, taking into account children's levels of understanding.

The childminder's professional relationship with parents and the good channels of communication benefit the children. Parents initially receive a written policy pack with comprehensive information about the childminder's provision and the daily routine. Parents of young children take home daily diaries, keeping them up to date on their child's development and progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder holds a qualification in childcare and has several years experience of working with children in a nursery setting. She uses her own knowledge and skills to provide good quality care, contributing to the children's care, welfare and development. She is very enthusiastic in her approach and demonstrates a commitment to improving her personal development and keeping up to date on new initiatives.

The home is very well organised in order to give children close support and attention. The play space is very child centred with child size furniture and attractive colourful posters and artwork. All documentation, pertaining to childminding, is in place, with many comprehensive written policies and procedures for the effective management of her provision. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

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 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):

- practise the emergency evacuation procedure with children
- continue to increase toys and resources reflecting positive images of race, culture, gender and disability.

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