

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY349226
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 November 2007
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Lee
<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 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 2007. She lives with her adult son in Walton, 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 mind a maximum of six children under eight years and is currently caring for one child before and after school. She walks to local schools to take and collect children.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and well maintained environment where the childminder takes suitable steps to keep them free from infection and cross contamination. For example, she uses anti-bacterial spray to wipe tables and work surfaces before use and she encourages children to wash their hands appropriately. Children are safeguarded in the event of accidental injury or sickness because the childminder has an up to date first aid certificate and a fully stocked first aid box. All of the necessary documentation is available to record accidents and medication,

and parents provide information about special dietary and medical requirements so that children can be cared for according to their individual needs.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of healthy eating and she provides a varied diet for children which includes home made soups, pasta dishes and stews plus biscuits and regular drinks of fruit juice. Children are given regular opportunities for exercise as they walk to and from school and play on a range of equipment in the garden, such as bikes, slide and see-saw. Indoors children practise their small motor skills when painting, cutting out using scissors and when manipulating dough, small world toys and puzzles.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are secure in the childminder's house because she ensures that they cannot leave the premises unattended or with unauthorised people. All of the necessary safety equipment, such as a fireguard, fire blanket, cupboard locks and stair gate is in place to minimise the risk of accidental injury to children. The fire safety officer has visited the house to fit smoke alarms and provide advice about fire safety. However, the childminder has not devised an emergency evacuation plan which is practised with the minded children so that they know how to keep themselves safe in an emergency.

There is a varied range of toys and equipment which is suitable for the ages of children cared for. For example, there are dolls, small world toys, construction items, play kitchen, puzzles, books, games and arts and crafts materials. The childminder makes the house welcoming to children because she displays colourful posters in the hall and provides a variety of interesting toys and activities. The resources are set out within reach of children so that they can make independent choices about what they play with.

The childminder has a basic understanding of child protection but she does not have the emergency telephone numbers for the local Social Services department, so that she can seek help and advice if an issue arises.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder develops close relationships with children so that they settle in quickly and feel comfortable and at ease in the setting. She provides a suitable range of activities which help them to have fun and make progress. For example, she enjoys involving the children in arts and craft activities, such as painting, making cards and cutting and sticking. The children also have opportunities for role play with dolls, the play kitchen and small world toys and they explore play dough and complete jigsaw puzzles. Children relate well to the childminder who talks to them, listens to their ideas and helps them with their play and activities.

Children are well behaved and co-operative and they can choose what to do when they arrive in from school. They sometimes enjoy relaxing in front of the television but they can also choose to play with a selection of toys and equipment. They walk to and from school and the childminder takes pre-school children to local parks, shops and toddler group where they can learn about the wider world.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder welcomes all children and treats them with equal care and concern. Parents provide information about their children so that the childminder can care for them according to their individual needs. There is a range of resources, such as books, puzzles and small world toys which provide children with positive images of different cultures, religions and disabilities. The childminder is a good role model and she uses praise and encouragement to help children to be well behaved and co-operative. There are clear boundaries for behaviour and children learn to be polite, to share and to take turns. The childminder works with parents to deal with particular behaviour management issues, so that they can provide consistency of care for children.

Parents are invited for introductory visits, with their children, when they can meet the childminder and complete the necessary documentation. This helps parents to feel reassured and ensures that children settle in quickly. There is a notice board for parents where the registration certificate and other information is displayed for parents. The childminder keeps parents informed about their children during daily conversations when they collect their children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are protected in the setting because the childminder makes sure that they never come into unsupervised contact with people who have not been vetted. She understands the need to inform Ofsted of any significant changes to the service. The correct child to adult ratios are maintained to ensure that children are always well supervised and supported. The childminder has undertaken training which helps her to understand the needs of young children and how they develop. The areas for play are warm and child friendly and there is sufficient space to ensure that children have some freedom of movement. Toys and equipment are set out around the room within reach of children, so that they can make choices about what they do in the setting.

The basic records are in place for the management of the provision and to protect the welfare of children. However, parents do not always sign the forms as required in order to fully safeguard children. Confidential records are stored in a lockable cabinet. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the 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 satisfactory. 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 an emergency escape plan and practise this with the minded children
- increase knowledge and understanding of child protection issues and obtain the emergency telephone numbers for the local Social Services department
- ensure that contracts and other necessary documentation are always signed by parents.

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)