



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY300852
Inspection date	06 October 2005
Inspector	Margaret Patricia Mellor

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her partner and child aged 3 years in a house situated in the south end of Liverpool. The whole of the ground floor of the childminders home is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at anyone time. There is one child on roll aged 7 months. The childminder either walks or uses her car to collect children from school or take them places. She regularly attends the local toddler group and childminder drop in sessions.

The childminder has a relevant early years qualification and previously worked as a nanny for many years. She is supported by the Local Authority. She is a member of the National Child Minding Association and Local Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm environment which benefits their health. Good hygiene practices followed by the childminder, such as washing hands after nappy changing and wiping down surfaces with anti bacterial spray helps keep children healthy and free from infection. The childminder acts in their best interests when children are ill, has an effective sun protection policy and keeps a fully stocked first aid box close at hand so she can respond quickly to any minor injuries. This further contributes to children's good health and general wellbeing. Young children show patience as they begin to learn simple good personal hygiene practices as the childminder sensitively helps them, such as washing hands and wiping noses.

Children's interest in food is nurtured because the childminder provides them with many healthy and nutritious home prepared foods which helps promote their growth and development. They are encouraged to try a variety of tastes such as pasta, plums, apples and scotch pancakes which increases their awareness of a range of textures. Babies' bring their formula milk and early weaning foods from home which contributes to their dietary needs and parents wishes so they remain healthy. Drinks of water or sugar free juice are provided throughout the day satisfying children's thirst and benefiting their health. Babies' learn to hold and drink from their feeder type cup which helps them develop their co-ordination.

Children are responded to according to their needs, for example, babies' eagerness to be physically active is recognised and encouraged by the childminder as she helps them in their efforts to stand and bear weight on their feet. Children benefit from fresh air and a change of environment every day through walks to places, such as the park, toddler group or school. This also positively contributes to children's growth and development as well as their emerging awareness of a healthy lifestyle.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained environment and play and move around the childminder's home safely and with confidence. The childminder has prepared a health and safety policy and takes all the necessary precautions to ensure her home is safe, secure and risk of children accidentally injuring themselves is minimised. Young children are handled sensitively as they show signs of tiredness and their welfare safeguarded because the childminder is close at hand to monitor them as they sleep and respond to their wakening. She ensures parents give written permission for children to travel in a vehicle and that all children are appropriately

secured so they travel in comfort and safety.

Children's safety and protection is further assured with the childminders knowledge of indicators of abuse and her sound understanding of what to do in the event of identifying a concern. Young children begin to learn about personal safety as they practice what to do if there is a fire and the childminder talks to them about crossing roads when they go for walks. This contributes to children's emerging awareness of how to keep themselves safe.

Children play with a good range of resources and equipment that are suitable in design, safe and developmentally appropriate. The carefully chosen resources are regularly cleaned and checked by the childminder so children remain safe. Children find the toys and equipment available fun, challenging and relax in comfort using the child sized furniture available. Young children begin to gain independence as they self select play materials which appeal to them and helps build their self esteem and sense of achievement.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are at ease in the childminder's home and consistent everyday routines, such as meals, quiet times and school runs helps them feel secure and content. The childminder is attentive and young children relish her close contact as they play or have their meals, which builds on their self- esteem and sense of belonging. Babies' move about with growing confidence as they show interest in the toys and activity going on around them. This helps build young children's confidence to initiate their own play and learning.

Children enjoy their play and love to use their imaginations as they play with the dolls, explore paint and have regular story times which contributes to their creativity. Younger children make progress because the childminder is knowledgeable about child development because she adapts, such as story telling and singing to meet their developmental needs. They listen and respond gleefully to pictures in the story book and rhymes with actions. The childminder devises fun ways to encourage babies mobility as she moves a favourite toy close by so that they are inspired to reach and handle it. Young children begin to learn how to communicate as babies' imitate simple sounds they hear as the childminder talks to them and there are lots of chuckles as they make themselves heard. All children explore a wealth of living things from trees to feeding the ducks and are very excited as they watch the squirrels and birds feed in the garden.

Children further benefit from activities outside the childminders home as they go for walks to places, such as the park or lunch at another childminder's house which contributes to their early learning experiences and social skills. Young children begin to appreciate the company of others through regular attendance at toddler group and childminder drop in sessions. This enables them to play sociably alongside one another and with each other while the childminder is close by for reassurance.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's home. The warm relationships between the children and childminder helps promote children's sense of belonging. All children develop a good appreciation of the world around them through walks to the park and as they play with the dolls, read books, do jigsaws, role play and celebrate festivals such as Christmas and Passover. However, the limited range of positive image resources means that children's awareness of different lifestyles is not fully developed.

All children are valued because the childminder knows their different personalities and children respond warmly to her. Children behave very well and the childminders continual use of praise and encouragement helps create a positive environment where children feel good about themselves. Young children relish the childminder's close contact as they play which helps build their self-esteem. They begin to develop good social skills through regular visits to toddler group which enables them to play alongside and with each other.

The childminder works in close partnership with parents to ensure that she understands children's individual needs and home routine so they settle well. All parents are provided with a welcome pack about the childminding provision and routines which reassures parents that children's interests come first. There is good sharing of information about the children, such as day diaries and chats at going home. Parents comment very positively about their children's care and the warm relationships they have with the childminder. This meaningful relationship between home and the childminder clearly contributes to children's continuity and quality of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children have freedom of movement because there is ample space which the childminder organises well. All children can relax, sleep or be active according to their respective needs, for example, babies play comfortably at floor level and older children can relax in the lounge with a book. Children benefit from consistent everyday routines and a balance of home based care with outdoor visits because the childminder organises the week for children to appreciate fresh air and meet up with others. Information is shared with parents regularly which contributes to children's continuity and quality of care

The childminder has an early years qualification and uses her knowledge of child development effectively so children are provided with a broad range of learning experiences which enhances the quality of care offered. She regularly attends the childminder network meetings and can draw on the knowledge of an experienced childminder which further benefits the children in her care.

All the relevant documentation pertaining to childminding is in place and contributes

to the effective management of the childminding provision which helps promote children's wellbeing. The childminder ensures that children are cared for in a secure environment because there are clear procedures so they are only collected by authorised people and unvetted persons are not allowed access to them. She has prepared well written policies and procedures which are shared with parents which helps build meaningful relations between all and reassures parents that children's interests come first. Good documentation in combination with training, such as first aid and child protection helps the childminder keep children healthy and safeguard their welfare.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report. The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaint 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):

- make available to all children an appropriate range of positive image resources.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk