



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307995
Inspection date	25 August 2005
Inspector	Margaret Baines

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 for 14 years. She is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently caring for three children from 8 months to 3 years on a part time basis.

She lives with her teenage son in the seaside town of Blackpool. The whole of the ground floor plus a first floor bedroom is available for childminding. There is also an enclosed outdoor secure garden at the rear of the home.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local

Blackpool Seaside Childminding Group. She attends local pop in sessions and receives support from the Local Authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm and welcoming home where toys and equipment are maintained to a very good standard, which safeguards children's well being. Children are beginning to learn about personal hygiene such as hand washing at appropriate times of the day. Children are kept free from infection and contamination because the childminder has devised effective procedures that are implemented well. There is full understanding of administering medication so that parents are reassured that requests are authorised and that children are therefore looked after properly.

Children benefit from appropriate equipment such as high level feeding chairs and low level tables and chairs to ensure they eat in safety. The childminder creates a relaxing and sociable time during meals and snack time with drinks readily available. Children enjoy a good range of healthy foods which include fresh fruit and vegetables, for example home made shepherd's pie is a favourite dish followed by yoghurt or fresh fruit.

Children are provided with very good opportunities to exercise both inside and out. They benefit from going for daily walks and frequent visits to the beach and the park. This provides good opportunities for children to practise and build upon their physical skills such as climbing and balancing. Children enjoy opportunities to play in the garden with the sit and rides and bats and balls. Children enjoy lots of fresh air, which keeps them healthy and promotes their physical development very well.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment for children is bright, visually stimulating and offers different areas where they can choose to play. Space is used creatively so that quiet, active and imaginative play opportunities are catered for. The areas for indoor play are well equipped to promote choice for the children. The outdoor area houses a selection of toys that extend children's physical development through well planned activities. Toys and equipment are organised in a way that allows children easy access, for example toy boxes and low level storage are available.

Children are kept safe and secure within this environment and when on outings as the childminder has due regard for safety procedures. She keeps the front door locked at all times, has safety equipment in place and ensures children travel in a vehicle that has appropriate restraints. Emergency fire procedures are in place and are practised regularly to familiarise the children with the method of evacuation quickly. Children learn the importance of safety for both themselves and for each other through careful explanation by the childminder.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a clear understanding of the responsibilities for recording and reporting alleged abuse of a child and maintains contact details of relevant bodies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children feel relaxed and secure because they settle very well with the childminder and others in the setting. They enjoy their play and this extends outside the home by partaking in outings and socialising with children at local toddler groups they visit with the childminder. Children spend their time purposefully and they develop well in all areas of learning especially language, mathematical thinking and creative play through stories, role play and visits to the local amenities to practise their skills. Children are enthusiastic in their play. They explore and ask questions frequently, developing their confidence well. They are very proud of their achievements and eager to share them with others, which promotes their self esteem effectively.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of the ages and stages of development of the children in her care and how to meet their needs, promote their development and ensure their well being. She plans activities that offer a very good range of experiences. In particular children enjoy regular visits to the local Seaside Childminding Group and places of interest in the community.

The childminder has completed training for Birth to three matters, a framework to assist implementing this aspect of practice that is used to enhance the care of the younger children. She uses this knowledge to promote a stimulating and fun day where their individual needs are met. Consequently children develop and enjoy their time as they flourish in this environment.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and respected as individuals who help to give them a sense of belonging. They are able to experience a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity through images and experiences offered to them. For example, they enjoy stories, looking at the books and they play with the small world figures that share the wider world with the children in a positive way.

Children effectively learn about good behaviour through positive reinforcement and excellent role modelling by the childminder who is calm and caring. She takes the time to explain and uses appropriate strategies taking into account individual levels of understanding. Children therefore show care and concern for others and are kind and considerate in sharing toys and playing together harmoniously.

The childminder ensures information is obtained from parents and is used effectively to meet the needs of their children. She in turn shares information about herself and her family, which forges positive links between home and the setting. This benefits

the children who feel secure within the home. The childminder does not at present have her certificate of registration on display therefore parents and visitors are not immediately aware of her registration conditions. Children's needs are met well because the childminder ensures an effective dialogue exists between her and parents enabling her to update records and share policies with them for the benefit of the children she cares for.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel secure and settled within a well organised environment. There are effective and clear procedures in place to promote children's learning and development as well as their welfare. Documentation is appropriately shared and confidentiality is acknowledged and maintained. The record of attendance is recorded clearly to show ratios are met confirming that children have appropriate support and supervision at all times. Written permissions are in place therefore parents are aware about all aspects of her practice.

Children are looked after by the childminder in a safe secure environment where they have room to develop their independence and learning through many well planned experiences. The childminder ensures that she develops her practice by attending additional training. She holds a current appropriate first aid certificate in line with current requirements to ensure children's needs can be met should there be an emergency. She has a good understanding of the Birth to three matters framework and implements aspects of this in her practice to promote learning for younger children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection the childminder has attended to the safety of the bathroom cupboard and ensured that the fire blanket is positioned in an appropriate place to provide safety for children. She has provided parents with the name, address and telephone number of the regulator, which informs them of whom they may contact should they have a concern. The childminder has also included in the child protection procedure the action to be taken should any allegations be made against herself or a member of her household. This effectively promotes the safety and protection of children in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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):

- display the certificate of registration where parents and visitors may view, thus providing them with the necessary information about the terms and conditions of registration.

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