

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	306058
Inspection date	22 November 2007
Inspector	Elaine Murray
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 1989. She lives with her adult child and nine year old daughter in Greasby, Wirral. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and the children have access to the bathroom and toilet on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding four children, some of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder recognises the importance of fresh air and exercise to promote children's good health. She ensures that the daily routine includes chances to be outdoors and develop physical skills. Children walk to school and back and take part in regular outings. They learn to enjoy

physical exercise as they make regular use of the broad range of equipment in the back garden, such as a climbing frame and wheeled toys.

Children are developing an awareness of simple hygiene procedures such as hand washing at appropriate times. The childminder's clear written sickness policy is shared with parents before placement begins. Parents also sign an agreement that they understand the childminder cannot care for sick children. These measures help to protect children from the spread of infection. Babies routines are followed with regard to sleep, helping to promote their good health.

Children's dietary needs are mainly met by parents, as they provide all meals for their children. The childminder provides healthy snacks, including fresh fruit, helping children to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. Fresh drinking water is always available to children, helping to ensure their good health.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder provides children with a welcoming, comfortable environment. Children's art work is displayed in the dining room, and in the playroom a good selection of toys are accessible to children in tubs. This helps to foster children's sense of security and belonging. Children are happy to select resources for themselves, promoting their independence. They are able to access a broad range of toys which are appropriate to their stage of development. The childminder organises space well to allow a quiet area for sleep or rest and areas for play and messy activities.

The childminder is vigilant about children's safety and takes effective measures to ensure that risks are identified and minimised. The premises are secure and hazardous substances are kept out of children's reach. The childminder adapts the environment for children who have just learned to walk, to ensure that there are no tripping hazards and toys are in easy reach. The childminder has a clear written policy to ensure children's safety on outings, and written procedures to follow in the event of a child being lost or uncollected. This helps to ensure children's safety. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder discusses with them, for example, road safety rules. The childminder has a clear fire evacuation procedure which is practised with the children, further developing their knowledge of how to protect themselves from harm.

Children are protected as the childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse. She is familiar with the procedures to follow if concerns are raised and has the relevant guidance and contact numbers. She has a written child protection policy which is shared with parents. The childminder has undertaken recent training in this area to develop her knowledge and understanding.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder fosters relaxed and warm relationships with the children. She gives ample praise and encouragement, and meets babies' need for comfort and reassurance. As a result children enjoy being in her care and are happy and settled. The childminder has recently attended training in the 'Birth to three matters' framework and has begun to make use of this guidance to develop young children's learning. The childminder interacts well with children to develop their interest and curiosity. For example, older babies attention is enthusiastically drawn to the

waste collection vehicle outside the window. Children happily cuddle up to share books with the childminder. The childminder follows children's interests in learning. She develops learning from their self chosen activities, for example, joining in when children select a basket of play food to 'go shopping'. Babies and young children have access to a good range of toys and enjoy selecting their own resources. They have fewer chances to develop learning through sensory play. The childminder takes children on regular outings to broaden their experiences, for example going by train to a museum, or walking to the local library.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued and included due to the childminder's positive approach. Children are respected and individual differences are valued positively. All children are able to participate in the activities offered which helps to promote their self esteem and sense of belonging. The childminder provides resources which promote a positive view of the wider community and diversity and so help to develop children's awareness and understanding. The childminder has attended recent training to further her knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities, which has a positive effect on the care provided. Children behave well as the childminder gives them plenty of praise and support for their efforts and achievements.

The childminder has established a positive partnership with parents, which benefits children. The childminder's written policies and procedures are shared with parents before placement begins, so that parents have clear information about her service. The childminder requests information about children when the placement begins and obtains relevant parental permissions. This information is used to help meet children's requirements. Information is also shared through informal talks with parents, helping to ensure that children's needs are met.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has several years experience of caring for children and this has a positive effect on the quality of care offered. She is committed to further improving the quality of her service by attending regular training courses. Children are cared for in a well organised environment. They are able to access toys and make choices in their learning due to the childminder's good organisation. This contributes to developing children's independence and helps to ensure that their needs are met. The childminder organises her time to ensure that children benefit from a good level of individual attention. The childminder has clear written policies and procedures which work well in practice to promote children's welfare, care and learning. All legally required documentation that contributes to the children's well-being and safety is in place, although the registration certificate on display is out of date and incomplete.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection the childminder was required to ensure that all gas appliances conform to safety requirements and improve the system for recording accidents.

These recommendations have been met, with positive effect on the protection of children's health and safety.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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):

- ensure children have more chances to develop learning through sensory play, in line with the aspects and approach described in the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- ensure that the current registration certificate is displayed.

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