

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY251043
<b>Inspection date</b>	09 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Elaine Murray
<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 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 2003. She lives in the Wavertree suburb of Liverpool. Children have access to all rooms on the ground floor, and a bedroom and bathroom on the first floor. There is an enclosed patio area for outdoor play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six children, all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to some local schools to take and collect children. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. She is a member of an approved childminding network.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder protects children from the risk of cross contamination by providing individual towels for hand drying and by regularly washing toys and equipment. Her clear sickness policy is shared with parents and helps to protect children from the spread of infection. Children are developing an awareness of simple hygiene procedures, such as hand washing at appropriate times. Children learn to enjoy physical exercise as they make regular use of the patio garden

for outdoor play and have frequent visits to the local adventure playground. Children also benefit from visits to indoor play areas where they have use of equipment to develop physical skills. The childminder provides opportunities for children to enjoy exercise in the home as they join in actions to a dance tape. Children also have regular walks out, for example, to the local shop, further encouraging a healthy lifestyle.

The childminder provides balanced and nutritious meals which promote children's good health. Children enjoy healthy snacks, including fresh fruit. Children are positively encouraged to eat healthily and the childminder works with parents to ensure that children have the recommended number of portions of fruit and vegetables each day. Fresh drinking water is always available to children, helping to promote their good health.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming setting. A downstairs room has been adapted for the sole use of minded children. There are photographs of the children and samples of their art work on display. Play materials are set out before the children arrive. This helps to foster children's sense of security and belonging. Children are able to access a very broad range of good quality toys which are appropriate to their stage of development.

The childminder has a good awareness of safety issues. She has clear written policies regarding procedures to follow in the event of a fire, or a child being lost or uncollected. The childminder has taken measures to minimise risks and hazards within and outside the home. Sleeping babies are well protected as the childminder has installed a closed circuit camera in the bedroom to enable her to observe babies whilst they sleep. Children learn to keep themselves safe as the childminder discusses with them, for example, coming downstairs safely. The childminders clear fire evacuation procedure is practised with the children, further developing their knowledge of how to protect themselves from harm.

The childminder has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and is familiar with the procedures to be followed. She attends regular training courses in this area to ensure she has up to date knowledge.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder establishes very positive relationships with children. She pays good attention to promoting children's confidence, self-esteem and sense of belonging. As a result, children enjoy being in her care and are happy and settled. Children talk happily to the childminder and she encourages them and values their contributions, promoting close relationships and further developing their self-esteem. The childminder makes good use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to develop young children's learning. Children are affirmed and valued as the childminder takes photographs of them outside their own front doors, which the children then use to make pictures of their homes for a wall display. The childminder encourages children to make choices. Children are involved in a range of activities, such as dressing up, painting, craft, baking and outdoor play. They enjoy mark making, role play and construction play. The childminder encourages children to think and develops learning through her enthusiastic interaction and careful questioning. For example, children are encouraged to recognise numbers and shapes during a mark making activity. The childminder follows children's interests in learning. She ensures that children whose interest is in toys cars have ample opportunities to

follow this interest and develop learning, for example, by building a car wash using construction toys. Children learn to share and cooperate as they work together to produce art work. Children benefit from taking part in regular outings to broaden their experiences.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder has a positive approach and ensures that children are valued and included. She provides resources which promote a positive view of the wider community and diversity and so help to develop children's awareness and understanding. Children are well behaved. The childminder has a positive and consistent approach to managing children's behaviour. She provides children with plenty of praise and encouragement. The childminder makes good use of a reward system to promote good behaviour and to encourage children to eat healthily.

The childminder has established a positive partnership with parents, which benefits children. Her written aims, policies and procedures are shared with parents before placement begins, so that parents have clear information about her service. The childminder values and respects the views of parents, and works closely with them to meet children's needs. Any concerns are dealt with promptly and are recorded. A regular sharing of information between the childminder and parents through informal talks also helps to ensure that children's needs are effectively met.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised environment which keeps them safe and secure. The childminder has a childcare qualification plus several years experience of working with children in different situations and settings. This has a positive effect on the quality of care offered. The childminder shows commitment to further improving the quality of her service. She has attended training in the 'Birth to three matters' framework and regularly updates her child protection training.

Children are able to access many toys and make choices in their learning due to the childminder's good organisation. The day's activities are organised to provide opportunities and experiences both inside and outdoors. Local facilities are effectively used with visits to toddler groups, the library, parks and play areas. The childminder has written aims, 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. However, the system for recording complaints does not ensure that the record is confidential, or that all the required information is included.

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 obtain a list of notifiable and infectious diseases and increase the range of resources to reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability. Both of these recommendations have been met, with positive effect on children's welfare and learning.

## **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 that the complaint record holds all the required information and is confidential.

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)