



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	313001
Inspection date	28 September 2005
Inspector	Barbara Redmond

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 in 1992. She lives with her two adult daughters in the Swanside district of Knowsley. The whole of the ground floor and an upstairs bathroom and toilet are used for childminding. Children have access to a rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 and is currently minding 7 children who attend for a variety of sessions.

The childminder attends local toddler groups, Sure Start activities and uses the

library and the park when minding.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from cross-infection because the childminder implements effective hygiene routines. All areas are cleaned well using appropriate anti-bacterial cleaners. Hand washing routines are consistently carried out at appropriate times. Children learn about hygiene because they are encouraged to help in cleaning surfaces before eating and to wash their hands regularly.

Children's interests are protected when they need medication because appropriate documents are used consistently, that include dosage and times, with parental signatures to confirm the correct details. The childminder has a current first aid qualification, a first aid kit and permission to seek emergency advice or treatment so children can receive the necessary care in emergency situations. The interests of children who have accidents is protected because the childminder accurately records details and these are shared effectively with parents.

Children receive a balanced diet with a mixture of freshly cooked and processed foods. They are offered healthy snacks such as toast, fruit and crackers and cheese. Fruit is offered at each meal, making a positive contribution to children's health. Children are offered regular drinks throughout the day so they do not become dehydrated.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises appear clean and well maintained so children can enjoy their play in a suitable environment. They move around freely exploring the environment in comfort.

Children have access to a wide range of resources that meet their care and play needs. Outside there is a good variety of provision, such as climbing apparatus and wheeled toys, so children can develop their physical skills. Indoors children can use prams, creative materials, puzzles and role play items to keep their interest and further their development. There is a child sized table and chairs for the comfort of children engaged in table top activities. Children have suitable sleeping arrangements according to their individual needs. Sleeping children are checked every few minutes to ensure their safety.

The childminder demonstrates a good awareness of child safety because she has fitted a range of safety features such as a fire guard, a safety gate and corner protectors on the table. Close supervision further reduces the risk of accidental injury.

Children are protected in case of fire because smoke alarms are fitted in the hall and on the landing, which are checked regularly. A fire evacuation procedure has been

devised to help children leave the building safely in an emergency. Children are safeguarded when being transported by car as appropriate documentation is in place.

Children are protected because the childminder has the necessary Area Child Protection Committee guidance and knows who to contact if she is worried about a child. She has a good knowledge of the signs and symptoms of abuse as she has had training in child protection and has also booked on a refresher course to ensure her practice is up to date.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy warm affectionate relationships with the childminder. They are confident and are at ease to make their wishes known. Children can develop their independence skills. For example, the childminder encourages children to cut up fruit using their own plastic knives.

Children engage in a good range of activities that encourage progress in all areas of their development. Activities are changed frequently so children remain stimulated and interested.

Children are encouraged to learn about the world about them as the childminder introduces concepts such as Autumn. They have been to the park and found items such as leaves, providing opportunities to explore and investigate. The children and the childminder produce a picture of Autumn and there are jigsaws of the seasons to reinforce this learning effectively.

Children enjoy looking at books with the childminder, encouraging their early language and literacy skills well. The children lead the activity and show a good level of language development. The childminder encourages the children to identify animals and colours. She asks open questions and repeats phrases back with skill to reinforce the development of language for children.

Children are able to develop good social skills because the childminder accesses a range of local provision including toddler groups, and Sure Start amenities where children can join in singing and dancing activities. Children also express themselves creatively using a good range of tools and materials.

The childminder uses her knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework to ensure that children learn through play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs are met well as the childminder adapts her practice to suit them. For example, she has a good knowledge of children's individual food preferences and adheres to these. There are some resources which reflect diversity

in society. However, these are not freely available to the children and activities relating to diversity of culture and ethnicity are limited. There are resources relating to people with disability including a dolls wheelchair and books showing positive images. Children also have the opportunity to see sign language being used and have learnt some signing themselves.

All children are welcome at the setting. If caring for child with additional needs the childminder would consult parents and gather information on care from other sources, such as the internet, to ensure that appropriate care was given. The childminder has experience of caring for a person with additional needs and found the internet useful for guidance on appropriate care. The childminder works closely with other professionals, such as the health visitor, to ensure children experience a positive inclusive environment.

Children behave well as the childminder demonstrates her ability to manage behaviour with skill. She uses distraction effectively to avoid behaviour problems. Children's self-esteem and positive behaviour are promoted as they are praised consistently throughout the day. They are encouraged to develop feelings for others as they show empathy for characters in a book. Children are praised for their creative work, developing their sense of pride for achievements. The childminder is aware that tiredness affects behaviour and changes to a quiet activity at the appropriate time.

The partnership with parents is good. Children observe their parents in warm friendly relationships with the childminder, fostering their feelings of security. There are good systems in place for the exchange of information. Admission forms are completed before the child starts which include the necessary information to provide appropriate care. Children are cared for according to parent's wishes because parental permission slips are on file for using sun cream, car transport, photographs and routine outings. Parents are kept informed verbally about the child's day. When caring for young babies the childminder writes down relevant information such as feeds and sleeps to facilitate consistency of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has ensured that all adults at the premises have appropriate checks in place to ensure that children do not come into contact with unsuitable people. The childminder is well organised and detailed registers indicate that the number of children present at any time meets regulations, ensuring that children have appropriate supervision. Space and resources are also organised to provide a safe stimulating environment that meets their care and play needs. The childminder accesses regular training to improve her practice, knowledge and skills.

Children's interests continue to be protected when they no longer attend because the childminder understands the need to store documents for an appropriate time after the child has left. She maintains appropriate documentation that is completed consistently to ensure safe and efficient provision for children. All documents are stored securely to maintain confidentiality for children and their families.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to complete attendance records daily. This is now carried out so the care for children is more efficient. She was also asked to achieve a balance of home based care and outside visits. This requirement is met as the childminder ensures that children spend an appropriate time being cared for within the home. At the last inspection the childminder was asked to make drinks accessible to children. Drinks are now available to children throughout the day so that they do not become dehydrated. The childminder was also asked to increase her resources reflecting disability. She has taken some steps to do this as she has acquired a dolls' wheelchair and has started accessing books showing positive images of disability. Children also have the opportunity to see sign language used and have learnt some signing themselves.

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):

- increase understanding of ways to encourage children's positive attitudes towards diversity in society.

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