

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	309038
<b>Inspection date</b>	10 January 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Baines
<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder lives with her husband in a semi-detached home in Blackpool, close to all local amenities. There are presently no children on roll; she currently cares for three grandchildren.

The rooms available for minded children include the front lounge, the rear bedroom, the dining kitchen and a bathroom. There is also an enclosed outdoor area available for the children. The childminder receives support from the local authority.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

From discussion with the childminder it was evident that children may enjoy a varied range of activities which will contribute to their good health. Activities will be organised which children enjoy and will contribute to improving their physical skills. For example, they will enjoy walks in the park and playing in the outdoor area at the rear of the house. Children will begin to

understand how activity affects their bodies, for example, when they need a drink or a rest, because the childminder will explain this aspect of being healthy to them.

The childminder confirmed that children will be cared for in a clean, well maintained home where they will learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care. They will learn that it is important to wash their hands at certain times of the day to avoid ill health from the exposure to germs.

From discussion the childminder evidenced that children will learn the benefits of healthy eating because the childminder will ensure they enjoy healthy meals and snacks, which include a good range of fresh fruit and vegetables. She was able to explain that children will have regular drinks provided to ensure they are not thirsty. The childminder confirmed that she will be mindful of parental requests and children's preferences in all aspects of the meals and snacks she serves, to ensure a continuity of care between home and the setting. Children's dietary needs will be adequately met in the care of the childminder because she will ensure she has detailed information from parents to help her meet the children's individual needs.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder provided evidence through discussion that children will be looked after in a safe and secure environment both indoors and outdoors. The childminder explained that she will give priority to safety and undertake regular safety checks to identify and minimise risks to children. From discussion she confirmed that children will enjoy the freedom of moving around independently as they choose an activity from the good selection available. Children will learn about fire safety because the childminder will give a sensitive explanation to help them understand what is expected of them to keep safe.

The childminder evidenced that she will provide dedicated rooms for play and sleep. Children may rest in their pushchairs, may sleep in the bed or a cot or just curl up on the sofa, whichever meets their needs and parental requests. The childminder discussed how she will ensure activities are age appropriate and children may enjoy them in safety. The childminder also evidenced that she will carefully monitor and supervise choices to ensure children play with appropriate toys suitable for their stage of development.

The childminder evidenced how she will ensure children's safety by sharing her knowledge of her responsibility with regard to child protection. She demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of child protection issues and how to safeguard children in this area. However, it is some time since she has updated child protection training to ensure she is fully aware of current procedures.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder discussed how she will encourage children to settle into her home. She will use her skills to help them feel secure and happy. For example, she will make sure she knows what their favourite things are and what makes them happy and sad. She has available a good range of resources, which the children will enjoy and find both fun and interesting. For example, there are small world toys, a small kitchen, construction toys, books and games. However, at present there are few dressing up clothes to encourage children's imaginative play.

The childminder evidenced how she will encourage children to spend some quiet time, for example, by reading stories to them. She confirmed that children will be encouraged to spend their time purposefully developing their language and mathematical thinking through play opportunities. Children will also have opportunities to enjoy music and movement as they listen to tapes and sing songs and rhymes.

From discussion it was evident that children will have good opportunities to enjoy construction, messy play and painting. She explained that when the weather is suitable, children will have good opportunities to enjoy the outdoors as she intends to take them for walks and they may also play in the rear garden.

The childminder confirmed in discussion that she has in place the 'Birth to three matters' guidance, a framework to assist with implementing this aspect of practice. She will use this when caring for minded children to enhance her practice.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder discussed how children will be valued and respected as individuals, to give them a sense of belonging. Children will enjoy a positive view of the wider world and increase their awareness of diversity, through images and experiences offered to them. This was evidenced in discussion with the childminder. For example, she will read stories about children in other countries and has available resources which reflect our diverse society.

From discussion the childminder evidenced that children will effectively learn about good behaviour through positive reinforcement and good examples set by herself. She appears to be a calm and caring provider. She evidenced in discussion that she will take the time to explain and use appropriate strategies, taking into account individual levels of understanding. Children will therefore begin to show care and concern for each other by learning to share toys and to take turns.

The childminder discussed how she will ensure that she receives detailed information from parents to enable her to provide effectively to meet children's individual needs. She in turn will share information about herself and her family so that good links are forged between them. This benefits the children, who feel secure within her home.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder evidenced through discussion and the documents she has available that she will ensure children feel settled and content within this home, which provides an organised environment with play and rest areas clearly defined. She discussed how information will be shared with parents on a regular basis in the form of both verbal and if preferred written communication. She will ensure that parents have access to policies and procedures in place, to inform them of all aspects of her practice.

The childminder demonstrated through discussion that she has a sound awareness of children's developmental needs. She can therefore plan activities appropriately, taking into consideration the ages of the children she cares for. She discussed how she will strive to create a stimulating environment where children thrive. She has undertaken recent training to improve her knowledge.

Overall, evidence suggests that the provision would meet the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure that records of emergency escape practises are available with the childcare records for inspection. The childminder has documented all emergency evacuation practises and has the records available. Consequently, the improvements have significantly enhanced the care for the children.

### **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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

At the time of the inspection there were no children on roll. Ofsted judges that the provider remains suitable to provide care.

### **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):

- develop the role play resources to further enhance children's imaginative play
- update child protection knowledge and understanding in line with current policy.

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)