

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY331814
Inspection date	10 June 2008
Inspector	Rachel Ruth Britten
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 satisfactory. 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 2007. She lives with her partner and two adult children in the suburbs of Liverpool. The childminder works with an assistant. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently has five children on roll. The childminder attends local parent and toddler groups and she is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's health is satisfactory because the childminder reminds children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before handling food and keeps the home, equipment and toys suitably clean. The childminder does not talk about health issues routinely with children, but she does remind them to cover their mouths when they cough. Children have access to clean towels and

use wipes to help clean the table before and after meals, as well as using wipes to clean their own hands. They have access to drinking water in the play room and have individual cups outside with them as they play. Fresh air and exercise are offered each day when children play in the garden or are taken to local parks and playgrounds.

Procedures and training to prevent children from becoming ill are suitable. The childminder has paediatric first aid and food hygiene certificates, and the first aid supplies are ready to use. However, one parent has not yet signed their consent for the childminder to obtain emergency medical advice or treatment should their child require this, and parents are not always asked to sign medication records in acknowledgement of what has been given. Any dietary or health needs are documented on the child details forms, and a record book supplied by the insurance company is used for medication administration.

Children enjoy a satisfactory diet and eat some fruits or vegetables at most meals. However, they do also eat processed convenience foods including biscuits, 'smiley faces', sweetened cereals and fish fingers. Nevertheless, children eat well and have a varied menu, including fruits and salads on the day of inspection. They are also involved in helping to grow some strawberries and vegetables in the garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept adequately safe and secure indoors because the childminder has set out the environment suitably. She makes use of a play room with a small adjacent toilet and basin area. She is vigilant, makes use of an assistant and allows children to take considered risks. For example, she supervises children carefully as they use small scissors, the bouncy castle and see-saw in the garden. She ensures that they sit appropriately at a low table to use scissors and glue and restricts children's access to the kitchen. She makes suitable use of stair gates and fire guards and keeps the fire blanket accessible in the kitchen. She has smoke detectors in place upstairs and downstairs. Toys and resources are mostly stored accessibly in the play room and children can select what they want.

Outside, the childminder teaches children to walk and cross roads safely and to be aware of others as they play in the park. She has appropriate insurance and car seats for use in the car and has a range of buggies and prams. She supervises children in the garden and plays enjoyable games with them, utilising the plentiful equipment well to make interesting obstacle courses and opportunities to slide, climb, jump and balance. She has devised and practised an emergency escape plan with children so that they know what to do if there is an emergency. Children are also adequately protected from abuse because the childminder has undertaken safeguarding training and is confident that she is able to put appropriate child protection procedures into practice if necessary. She keeps information in her portfolio to show to parents about child protection matters.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and enjoy being with the childminder and her assistant. They are attentive and provide some enjoyable activities which develop pre-school children's knowledge of colours, shapes, letters and their physical coordination. For example, they play a game using the coloured spot mats in the garden and make father's day cards using a variety of coloured paper, glitter, shapes and pens. The childminder is attentive but she does not take time to sit and discuss

what children are doing in a way that challenges them to learn and develop more. She does not plan themes or link activities together to help children to remember and consolidate what they know. This holds back their interest and engagement a little. Nevertheless, they are mostly absorbed in their activities and feel able to ask for help when they need it.

Children enjoy trips out for physical play, discovering nature and animals at the zoo, or learning about their locality at the interactive museums nearby. They enjoy good social opportunities at local toddler groups and a wider variety of resources and equipment there too. As a result, children are enjoying their play and their physical and problem solving skills are developing quite well. Children's art and craft work is sometimes retained as evidence of what they can do, but this is not all clearly dated or annotated to show what children can do for themselves or what the plans are for the next steps in their development.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children in the setting have developed an adequate sense of belonging and feel included, because the childminder and her assistant share their attention with the minded children and get domestic tasks done between them. The childminder expects and teaches good manners and behaviour although she tends to say 'no', rather than distracting children, or telling them what behaviour she wants. Nevertheless, children mostly behave well and apologise and hug if they have hurt another child. The childminder has not made use of the incident record thus far to record any incidents involving behaviour, because she is unclear about the distinction between accident and incident records.

The childminder ensures that each child's individual needs for rest and sleep are met, and that they can enjoy one to one time on occasions with the childminder. She encourages them to assist with tidying up before getting out more toys, but instructions and help to do this are too unclear for children to really know what to do. Children enjoy a few books, role play equipment, dressing up and dolls which promote other cultures and disabilities and they access some multicultural activities at local children's groups.

Children's needs are met through verbal partnership with parents. There are suitable contracts and child details in place and the Ofsted poster is displayed, although there is no evidence available to indicate parents' views. The childminder is sufficiently open and communicative with parents and makes sure that they are informed about any issues occurring. She makes the details of her service available to parents through a large portfolio of certificates and information, but this is difficult to understand because it is not all relevant or clearly ordered.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound regard for the well-being of all children. She has attended courses relating to childminding including first aid, child protection, nutrition, risk assessment and health and safety, writing policies and procedures and the Early Years Foundation Stage. She keeps essential contracts and child details to enable her to give individual care according to parents' wishes, and the adult members of the household have been vetted. The childminder does not critically evaluate her childminding, but she is aware of the need to maintain accident, medication and complaint records. However, these are not always kept in order and confidential with the relevant child's records. In addition, the childminder has not obtained detailed consents from parents for all aspects of the day care offered, including the use of photography, transport

in a vehicle, application of sun creams and making observational notes about children's progress. She maintains a daily register of attendance but is not completing this as children arrive and depart, which compromises children's safety in an emergency because it is not documented who is on the premises during the day.

The childminder's procedures work adequately in practice to promote children's safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. She is organised to ensure that children are collected from school and are able to experience enjoyment and stimulation. Parents are said to be confident in the care that their children receive. Certificates are clearly displayed on the wall of the play room, but the information in the portfolio and files is not organised in a way that makes it easy for the childminder to actually use it to support her work.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

There were four actions raised at the last inspection in June 2007. These related to documentation and knowledge of the local safeguarding procedures. The childminder now displays her registration certificate and keeps individual children's records and contracts confidential. She keeps a complaints record. However, she does not have all necessary consents in place from parents. She maintains accident and medication records, but still is not always getting medication records signed by parents both in consent beforehand and in acknowledgement afterwards. She is maintaining a daily register, but is not completing this as children actually arrive and depart. Further recommendations have therefore been raised at this inspection.

The childminder has a better understanding of the safeguarding children procedures and has undertaken training regarding this. She has information available about safeguarding, including the contact numbers for the local police and social services, although she is not confident which booklet these numbers can be found in.

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.

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 medication administration records are signed in acknowledgement by parents
- implement some play planning and recording for individual children to make progress and talk to them about what they are doing to consolidate and extend their learning and development
- ensure that behaviour incidents are recorded and parents informed about them on the day
- ensure that the daily attendance register is kept accurate and up to date
- ensure that parents give consents for practice and activities, including trips, photos, application of sun creams etc.

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