

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY346556
Inspection date	02 June 2008
Inspector	Michele Anne Villiers
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 husband in a suburb of Liverpool. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five and one child over five. She walks or transports children in a vehicle to collect them from school and takes them to places of interest.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes appropriate steps to help prevent the spread of infection and promote the children's health. Her home is suitably maintained and she provides a welcoming environment. All documentation relating to the recording of accidents and administration of medication are in place. However, the written policy regarding medication is a corporate statement and does not reflect the childminder's practice. For example, it states that only

prescribed medication is given, but the childminder administers unprescribed medicine with parental consent.

Children learn about personal hygiene through routines, such as regular hand washing. They become aware of healthy eating and enjoy a balanced diet that includes home-made meals, and fresh fruit and vegetables. Specific activities, such as drawing and writing about vegetables and fruit further reinforce their knowledge and understanding. Drinking water is made freely available, and children also have drinks of juice or milk.

Children experience a wide range of challenging physical activities, helping to foster their strength, stamina, balance and coordination. Outside, they play on various wheeled toys, a small trampoline, slide and bouncy castle. They have fun demonstrating how they can hop and jump, and competently learn to use bats and balls.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a secure home that is a creatively organised in order to provide a child centred environment. They independently access a huge range of safe and suitable toys from low level storage boxes. Child-size furniture is also provided for children to sit in comfort. Safety measures within the home are in place. However, there are some hazardous materials in the garden. Large garden tools are accessible to the children, and rusty nails and small pieces of broken glass are on the flagstone area where children play.

The childminder helps children to learn about safety, with gentle reminders about being careful when playing and running around. Children dress up as police, fire fighters, doctors and nurses, learning about people who help us. On outings children become aware of road safety and the importance of holding hands and staying together. They also practise the fire evacuation procedure with the childminder in order to know what to do in an emergency. Children are occasionally transported in a vehicle. However, the car insurance does not clearly state for business use.

The childminder has a satisfactory understanding of safeguarding children and child protection issues. She has attended training and has devised a written policy on what to do should she have any concerns about a child. This is shared with the parents. However, she has not included the procedure to follow if an allegation concerning child protection issues is made against her whilst a child is in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They confidently explore their environment and initiate interaction with the childminder. They are interested in their play and excitedly become involved in activities. The childminder engages enthusiastically with the children, talking and listening to them, supporting and motivating their learning. She plans well to provide a good balance of play experiences, including attending local playgroups, visiting places of interest and local outings. She skilfully intervenes during the children's play and practical activities to make it a learning experience for them.

Many opportunities are provided for children to learn about colour and mathematical concepts. For example, during play with cars they name the colour of each car and count how many cars

they have. They enjoy playing dominoes with domino cards that they have made. They competently match the colour and the written numeral on the domino, taking turns to connect the corresponding card. The children's imagination is fostered well and they explore a range of media. They enjoy various art and craft activities, expressing their own ideas when painting and colouring pictures. They access a huge range of dressing up clothes and materials in order to re-enact life at home and pretend to be different characters.

The children's language, literacy and communication skills are fostered well. The childminder constantly challenges the children's learning with good questioning, such as 'How many?', 'What colour is it?', and during story time she introduces children to new words, such as 'foal', when asking them 'What is a baby zebra called?'. They have many opportunities to practise mark-making, drawing and writing. They access a wide range of books and enjoy listening to stories. The childminder uses observation to monitor the children's progress and development. They have individual folders in which to store their drawings, paintings and writing skills, in order to take them home.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled and develop a close relationship with the childminder, helping to foster their emotional well-being. They learn about diversity and the world in which they live through some toys and resources that reflect different cultures, race, gender and disability. All children access all toys, and activities are not gender specific.

Children are well behaved and learn to share and take turns. They eagerly help to tidy away, and respond co-operatively to simple instructions. The childminder uses positive strategies to reinforce the children's good behaviour, with constant praise and encouragement.

Parent contracts and consent forms are in place. Information is shared with the parents through daily discussion and written documentation. The childminder has devised many written policies and procedures, plus written information about herself and her family, to share with the parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates a strong commitment towards improving her own personal development in order to promote the children's welfare. She has completed all regulatory training and has attended several additional courses since being registered. She uses her knowledge and skills to provide interesting play opportunities and meet the children's needs and welfare.

Children are happy and settled in a family environment. Most regulatory documentation is in place. However, some written policies and procedures need updating in order to reflect the service the childminder provides. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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):

- make sure all outside hazardous materials are removed or made inaccessible to children
- update written policies and procedures in order to reflect the provision, and include the procedure to follow if an allegation is made whilst children are in her care with regard to safeguarding children and child protection issues
- ensure the car insurance covers the use for business.

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