



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	322203
Inspection date	16 June 2005
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 good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder has been registered since 1998. She lives with her husband and their two teenage children. They live in a dormer bungalow, within a cul-de-sac, which is situated in a residential suburb of Liverpool. The home is in walking distance of schools, shops and parks, and close to bus and rail networks. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and children also have access to a fully enclosed garden.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding four children, three of whom are part-time and one is

full-time. The family have a pet dog and cat.

The childminder is a qualified Nursery Nurse and has also completed Level 3 in Childminding Practice. She holds a current first aid certificate and is a member of the National Child Minding Association (NCMA). She is active in the local Childminding Network and runs their Toy Library.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children learn about the importance of hygiene and personal care. They are encouraged to independently toilet themselves and wash their hands. The childminder take positive steps to help prevent the spread of infection, using an appropriate mat for changing nappies and providing minded children with separate hand towels. Children are cared for in a warm, clean and very well-maintained home environment. The children's welfare is taken into account if they are sick and there is a written exclusion policy. The administration of medication is recorded, along with parental consent, although there is limited detailed information when non-prescribed medication is administered, to highlight the children's illness.

Children enjoy a wide range of suitable toys and resources, which contribute to their good health and physical development. During nice weather they access outdoor equipment such as a climbing frame, slide, trampoline, play tent, tunnel and several wheeled toys, helping children to develop strength, stamina, co-ordination and balance. Planned activities include digging and growing flowers outside, visits to the local park, and walks to the shops.

Children begin to understand the importance of a healthy diet. Snacks are well balanced and parents are encouraged to provide nutritional packed lunches. Fresh fruit is always available and drinks offered regularly.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children learn about safety within the home and on outings. The childminder minimises risks for children in the home. All low level cupboards and drawers have safety catches, and children are vigilantly supervised during play. Fire safety requirements are all met and children learn about the importance of fire drills through regular evacuation practices. During outings children know to use the zebra crossing and appropriate car seats, buggies, reins and wrist straps are available for toddlers to keep them safe. Young children are safely strapped into chairs when using the dining table for meals and art and craft.

Children independently select from a wide range of very good quality toys and equipment that meet safety standards. The childminder carefully supervises children's choice of toys, making sure they are appropriate for their age and stage of

development. The play space is very child centred with resources stored at low level for children to access.

The children's welfare is promoted through the childminder's understanding of child protection issues. She has a written policy, which is in line with the local Area Child Protection Committee procedure, and plans to access a further training course.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the childminder's house and feel secure in the welcoming environment. They access a very good range of toys and resources, which contribute to their all round development. The childminder plans and provides interesting and stimulating activities to challenge the children and help them make progress. Children express their creative talents through art and craft, using different materials to enhance their sensory experiences, and their imagination is fostered during role play and dressing up. Children enjoy story time and they learn about colours and shapes during construction. Outside, children grow their own flowers and tomato plants, learning about the natural world and seasons.

Children have a good relationship with the childminder. They initiate interaction and conversation and use the play space well, choosing their toys. The childminder gives children good support and she uses her skills and knowledge as a qualified Nursery Nurse to motivate the children's learning, providing activities appropriate for their age and stage of development. Babies receive lots of cuddles and one-to-one attention, helping them to communicate, express themselves and learn to crawl and walk.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about different cultures and the wider world in which they live through a range of toys and resources and meaningful activities. They play with different cultural dolls and a 'Thai House' with play people, and visit places of interest such as the Chinese Pagoda in China Town. The childminder provides some toys reflecting disability, such as play people in wheelchairs, using walking sticks and support frames. However, there are few books, puzzles or posters displaying positive images. All children have access to all activities and children are respected as individuals. The childminder uses observation and discussion with the parents to identify individual needs and requirements in order to promote the children's welfare.

Children learn to show care and concern for each other. They share and play well together. They use good manners, saying 'please' and 'thank you' at all times, and co-operate in response to expectations, helping to tidy away and sitting down for drinks and snacks. The childminder reinforces good behaviour through praise and encouragement, fostering the children's self-confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit from the good relationship the childminder has with parents. Parents

are welcomed into the home to share information about their child and receive written documentation on their babies' daily routine. All appropriate documentation and parental consent forms are in place and many 'Thank You' cards evidence their satisfaction.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder effectively uses her experiences and skills to provide good activities, promoting the children's welfare and development. She is keen to continue to build on her knowledge and frequently attends training sessions. She holds a First Aid certificate and has completed Level 3 in Childminding Practice. All adults having access to children are vetted, in order to protect and safeguard children.

Children feel secure in the well-organised environment, where they display their creative artwork in the designated playroom, providing them with a strong sense of belonging.

The childminder has devised and written many policies and procedures, for the effective management of her provision and the care and welfare of the children. She is a member of the National Child Minding Association (NCMA) and is active in the local childminders network, running their Toy Library. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder should up-date her written Child Protection procedure. This has been completed and now includes a procedure to follow should any allegations of abuse be made whilst children are in her care.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report since the last inspection.

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):

- continue to increase resources that reflect positive images of race, culture, gender and disability.
- ensure sufficient information is recorded when administering unprescribed medication.

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