



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY302678
Inspection date	26 September 2005
Inspector	Jean Evelyn Thomas

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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in April 2005. She lives with her husband and two children, aged 13 and 12, in West Kirby on the Wirral peninsula. All areas of the home are used for childminding, except the utility room on the ground floor and bedrooms on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The home is situated within walking distance of parks, shops, beach, toddler groups, library and schools. The family have three dogs, rats, a guinea pig, two ducks, fish, a cat and mice.

There are five children on roll. She is registered to care for no more than six children

under 8 years.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a clean and comfortable setting where appropriate hygiene procedures, including pet care, help prevent the spread of infection. The children develop their understanding of the importance of personal care, such as washing hands after handling the pets or before eating, by following familiar daily routines. In addition the childminder explains to the children the purpose of this process to protect themselves from the risk of infection because of germs. The children stay healthy because the childminder follows the necessary hygiene practices herself and ensures the environment where children play and food is prepared is clean.

Children participate in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle such as having regular fresh air and exercise. The children walk home from school and visit the local park on route to enjoy robust activity giving further opportunity to develop their physical skills. Children are generally protected when they become unwell. The childminder follows the appropriate measures in making the children comfortable and contacting the parents. However consents have not been obtained from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment. The childminder is not familiar with the communicable illness procedures.

The children's diet is well balanced and nutritious. Food containing sugar and salt are limited. Children are provided with drinks on a regular basis and are confident to ask for drinks as they wish, learning to respond to their bodily needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The setting offers ample space for children to play in comfort and to pursue different activities with an area to relax or rest. The garden is fully enclosed and suitable for safe outdoor play. Toys and books are set out at low level allowing children to freely select and make their own choices in play. The childminder checks the play materials to make sure they are complete and clean for children to handle. Storage facilities allows the childminder to arrange toys to ensure only those which are age appropriate are accessible to the children attending.

Children are cared for in a safe setting. Hazards are minimised as the childminder completes a routine safety check before children arrive. Although an evacuation plan has been prepared it has not been practiced with the children in order for them to be familiar with the procedure to protect themselves in an emergency. Children learn to keep themselves safe when out and about as the childminder fosters their understanding of road safety. The childminder holds a current first aid certificate and will take the appropriate action if an accident occurs.

Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a basic understanding of child protection procedures and is aware of her responsibility to implement these.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children confidently choose what they wish to do and the childminder respects these choices. She appreciates the differing needs of children after a busy day at school and caters for the individual personalities and interests of the children. She is aware some children want to relax whilst others are ready to pursue play. There are opportunities for children to be creative using a variety of resources including paint, playdough, craft and small world play. Children enjoy the company of their peers, developing their social skills and relationships. They decided to play an interactive computer game, whilst reclining on the settee, chatting and laughing together.

The children are emotionally secure whilst in the care of the childminder who listens to the children and responds in a positive manner. Children initiate conversation and are willing to talk about what they are doing.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children pursue activities of their choice developing their skills in decision making and their self confidence. The childminder does not stereotype play or label toys as being for either boys or girls. As a result children enjoy a broad range of activities and play opportunities. However the children will not further develop their understanding of the diversity of society because resources are not available to promote this.

The childminder works in partnership with parents to meet children's individual needs. She values the information obtained from parents to ensure the appropriate care is offered to the children.

Children behave well. The childminder is consistent in her approach to managing children's behaviour with an emphasis on positive strategies, which are discussed with parents before the arrangement commences. The childminder speaks positively to children using praise which contributes to their self-esteem. Children learn to be considerate towards each other and show respect to the pets. This is achieved through discussion and the childminder being a role model.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has regard for the children's wellbeing. Persons not vetted do not have unsupervised access to the children. The adult-child ratios positively support children's care, learning and play. The registered areas of the home are well set out to incorporate free play and relaxation.

The childminder has the required documents in place and ensures they are securely stored. However the children's attendance record does not detail the actual times they are present.

Overall the provision meets the needs of all children attending.

Improvements since the last inspection

This is the first inspection since registration.

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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice or treatment and information about procedures regarding communicable illnesses to ensure appropriate action is taken when a child is unwell
- practice the emergency evacuation to ensure children are aware of the procedure to follow
- ensure children's attendance record details the actual hours of attendance.

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