



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY300990
Inspection date	09 January 2006
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.
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WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband, two adult children, one child aged 12 and a grandchild aged 4, in Liverpool. The rear room on the 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 minding two children aged under 5. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children, and attends the local parent-toddler group. The family has a cat.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared-for in a well maintained home. Work is currently being undertaken to extend the property; however, the children's play area is clean and the childminder takes positive steps to ensure surfaces are free from dust or mess. Satisfactory measures are taken by the childminder to help prevent the spread of infection and protect children from becoming ill. Children wash their hands prior to handling food and individual towels are provided. The childminder has a policy on sickness and exclusion, but she has a limited knowledge of communicable diseases and the procedures to follow. The administration of medication is appropriately recorded and parental consent obtained. A first aid box is available in the home so the childminder may deal with minor injuries, and all children's accidents are recorded and the information shared with parents.

Children take part in regular physical exercise, helping their growth and development. Young children freely move around with plenty of space to crawl, learn to walk and run around. Some large equipment is accessible indoors, such as push along toys and wheeled sit-on cars, which children learn to competently manoeuvre around the room with developing control and co-ordination. Regular opportunities for play in the garden and trips to the park enable children to run around, and they benefit daily from walks to the local school. Babies and young children receive good attention from the childminder. They receive cuddles and affectionate interaction from the childminder that fosters their emotional well-being.

Throughout the day children have free access to drinks, and meals and snacks are provided to promote their growth. Satisfactory measures are taken to help children learn about healthy eating. They are offered fresh fruit each day, and hot meals include vegetables. However meals and snacks lack variety and juice is offered rather than water. Meal times are social occasions and children enjoy their food. They are encouraged to independently feed themselves, using suitable cutlery, and older children enjoy baking activities. Children's dietary needs are met and parental preferences respected.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children play in a safe and secure environment. They freely move around and gain independence choosing where to play and helping themselves to toys and resources. Space is organised well and toys are attractively displayed creating a welcoming and stimulating environment. Children access an extensive range of good quality toys and resources that are safe and suitable for the children's age and ability. They play with a range of puzzles, books, games, small world, role-play, art and craft and many sensory and interactive toys for babies and young children. Children relax on large bean bags and sit together at a child-size table.

The childminder takes appropriate steps to minimize hazards and promote safety within the home, outside and on outings, helping to satisfactorily protect children. Safety gates are securely in place to prevent children from entering areas within the home that may compromise their safety. Smoke alarms are fitted at both levels within the home and the childminder practises the fire evacuation procedure with children. A risk assessment has been conducted on the premises whilst building work is taking place, and potential hazards and action to be taken are recorded. On outings the childminder uses buggies and wrist straps on young children, and attaches stickers to children with a contact number should they become lost. Children learn about safety throughout the daily routine and are reminded to be careful on the wooden floor and not to slip. However, young children sometimes sleep on the settee and risk hurting themselves if they should fall.

Children are further protected as the childminder has a sufficient understanding of child protection. She has a good understanding of the possible signs and symptoms, and knows to record and monitor all concerns. The childminder has attended some training and has devised a child protection policy to share with parents. However, she does not have a copy of the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused' to ensure procedures comply with legislation.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in a warm, caring relationship with the childminder. They enjoy their play and the close contact with the childminder who sits on the floor with young children and is interested and actively involved in their play. Children confidently choose toys and the childminder varies their play asking "Shall we get the blocks out?" and "You choose which toys are to go away". Some activities are planned and follow a theme, such as colour. Children select 'yellow' blocks to build a tower.

Young children develop good language skills and learn to become skilful communicators. The childminder constantly talks to children, encouraging them to repeat words such as 'train' when playing with the train set, and praising them with 'Well done, that's brilliant'. Children enjoy stories and the childminder encourages young children to turn the pages and point to pictures when she asks "What's this - is it a ssssssssnake", and "Where's the spider?". She uses prompts to then sing songs such as 'Incy Wincy Spider' and children delight in copying the actions. They join in with 'If you're happy and you know it', clapping their hands, nodding their head and stamping feet. Children concentrate well and play alongside each other, completing simple puzzles and sharing building blocks. Young children excitedly press buttons on sensory toys delighting in the consequences of sound and visual effects. They enjoy a range of musical instruments, experimenting with different sounds.

Children enjoy a wide range of art and craft, fostering their creative skills. They make masks for festivals, such as Halloween, and collage pictures for Diwali and the Chinese dragon using different textured materials and colours. Children have fun making hand and foot prints and enjoy drawing and mark-making. They have access

to a wide range of dressing-up clothes and role-play resources to further extend their imagination. Children learn to socialise with others when attending the local parent and toddler group and become familiar with their environment during walks to the local school, park and shops. They enjoy interesting outings to a large farm where they meet a range of animals and have tractor rides. The childminder provides activities appropriate to the children's stage of development. She completes a 'Trackers' profile on each child, using a tick list of children's developmental stages that relate to the Birth to three matters framework. Observation reports are also completed and the childminder records future plans to help individual children achieve. Each child takes home a completed form 'All about my day' with recorded information about their activities, food intake, sleep and nappies.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals and receive good attention, helping them to develop a sense of belonging and fostering their self-assurance. Children learn about diversity through a satisfactory range of multi-cultural toys and resources that reflect positive images of race, gender and disability. They play with different nationality dolls, dressing-up clothes reflecting different cultures and play people with a wheelchair, walking stick and callipers. Children also become familiar with different cultural festivals, such as Diwali and Chinese New Year. All children play with all toys, and activities are not gender specific. The childminder has a good understanding and knowledge of special needs and ensures that all children integrate well.

The childminder creates a positive environment and is calm and consistent in her approach, encouraging children to share and take turns during play. She uses praise to reinforce good behaviour and has devised a written policy to share with parents. Information is exchanged with parents through daily discussion and parents are welcomed into her home at any time. Parents receive a written information pack plus records about their child's development and daily routine. Many written policies and procedures are shared with parents, and appropriate contracts and consent are in place, helping to meet the needs of children.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder is keen to use her knowledge and experience to effectively provide children with a wide range of learning experiences in a relaxed and stimulating environment. Since registering she has attended training on child protection and Birth to three matters, and has completed First Aid and Food Hygiene courses. She actively networks with other childminders and organises activities to provide a balance of opportunities and experiences for children both inside and outside the home.

Children are protected and safeguarded as all legally-required documentation is in

place. The childminder has given good attention to devising several written policies and procedures for the effective management of her provision. She ensures that parents are kept well informed about their child's progress and daily routine.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

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):

- become familiar with communicable diseases, as defined by the Health Protection Agency, and the procedure to follow should any child have a serious disease whilst being cared for
- continue to introduce a varied balanced nutritional diet, and encourage children to access drinking water
- ensure that young children are safe when sleeping and free from accidentally harming themselves
- obtain a copy of the Government booklet 'What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused', and ensure there is a clear procedure to follow.

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