



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY103176
Inspection date	06 February 2006
Inspector	Ann Lee

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 was registered in 2002 and lives with her partner in Croxteth Park, Liverpool. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. She is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding 10 children who all attend on a part time basis. The family have two pet cats.

The childminder takes and collects children from school, visits parks and shops and attends local toddler groups. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is also an accredited member of the Longmoor Childminding

Network although she does not currently mind any children in receipt of funded nursery education.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder ensures that children are kept free from infection and cross contamination because she follows hygienic routines for nappy changing and cleaning work surfaces. Children learn to wash their hands appropriately and the childminder encourages their independence by providing a step up facility, child sized toilet seat and special children's soap and drying cloths in the bathroom. The two family cats are included in the childminder's weekly health and safety assessment and they are regularly treated for worms and fleas so that children stay free from infection. The childminder has completed training in basic food hygiene and there are colour coded chopping boards and fridge and freezer thermometers in place to ensure that food is prepared and stored hygienically. Children learn about the need for good dental hygiene because they are encouraged to clean their teeth after lunch. The childminder uses books and puzzles to re-enforce these hygiene messages.

Children are protected in the event of accidental injury because the childminder is trained in first aid and she follows her sickness policy to ensure that they are well cared for in the event of an accident, or if they become ill while in the setting. She ensures that her first aid box is always fully stocked.

The childminder has a good understanding of healthy eating and she finds out about the children's dietary needs, allergies and likes and dislikes. She offers the children a balanced, nutritional diet according to their individual needs. Children help her to shop for fresh foods so that they learn about different fruit and vegetables and they then cook them together, learn how food changes during cooking and enjoy eating the finished product. She limits the amount of sweet and salty foods such as sweets, crisps and sugary drinks so that children stay healthy. Children also learn about healthy eating through the use of posters and activities which teach them about the importance of eating five portions of fruit and vegetables each day.

Children have regular opportunities to develop their physical skills both indoors and in the garden. They play with a good variety of outdoor equipment such as bikes, cars, slide and see-saw and they can also dig in the soil and jump on the trampoline and the space-hopper. Indoors, children dance to music and practice their small motor skills as they manipulate puzzles, play board games, build with large and small blocks and learn to cut and paint during arts and craft activities. The children also enjoy outings to the local toddler group and parks where there is space for them to run about, jump and climb.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure in the childminder's house because the front door is kept locked and only authorised people are allowed to collect them. All of the necessary safety equipment such as safety gates, fire guard, cupboard locks, fire blanket and smoke alarms are in place to ensure that the risk of accidental injury to children is minimised. Children are further safeguarded because they are closely supervised at all times and the childminder conducts weekly risk assessments of her house and garden to identify any hazards.

The childminder's house is welcoming and child friendly. The walls of the play areas are decorated with colourful multi-cultural posters and examples of the children's art work and this helps children to feel that they belong and develops their self esteem. There is a wide variety of good quality toys and equipment and children are given choices about what they play with so that they grow in confidence and become more independent.

There is a fire evacuation procedure in place which has been drawn up with advice from the Fire Safety officer and children learn how to keep themselves safe in an emergency when they practice the fire drill. The childminder is committed to improving the safety of children by attending regular training. Since attending training in 'Sudden Infant Death Syndrome' she has introduced a monitoring system to ensure the safety of sleeping babies.

Children are safeguarded on outings because the childminder supervises them closely and uses reins and buggies to safeguard babies and toddlers. Children learn about road safety through discussion about how to cross the road safely and also during projects when they listen to community police officers and do art work to re-enforce the safety messages.

The childminder has completed training in child protection and she has a good understanding of her role and responsibilities in relation to protecting children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is very friendly and enthusiastic and she develops close affectionate relationships with the children which helps them to feel secure and happy. Children play well together and they learn to share and to take turns. The childminder talks to the children and helps them to extend their vocabulary as they play together and read stories.

A good variety of toys and equipment is provided which help children to learn and to have fun. For example, they manipulate dough and make different shapes with the encouragement of the childminder. She talks to them about the snake shapes and helps them to extend their vocabulary by introducing new words and sounds. When the children make masks the childminder holds them up to the mirror so that they can see and admire their handiwork. This helps to build their self esteem and feel a sense of achievement. Story time is a relaxing and comforting interlude when the baby sits on the childminder's knee and the toddler snuggles up next to her. Children show

high levels of concentration as they listen carefully and enjoy the simple but interesting story. The childminder involves the children in the story by asking questions and using her voice to imitate the different characters.

The childminder devises an interesting and stimulating range of activities for the children including cooking, growing bulbs and seeds in the garden and arts and crafts. They learn about their local community and the wider world on outings to the local toddler group, parks and shops where they help to choose fresh fruit and vegetables in the greengrocers. The children then help the childminder to make soup using the fresh vegetables. School age children are encouraged to do their homework but they also enjoy arts and crafts, play board games or relax in front of the television.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcome in the setting and the childminder displays pictures and posters which help to create a multi-cultural, child friendly environment. She has devised an equal opportunities policy and has also completed relevant training to help her to meet the individual needs of all children. Children learn about diversity and the wider world through planned activities and the celebration of festivals such as Chinese New Year when the children make fortune cookies. They enjoy trips on public transport and outings to places of interest such as museums and the planetarium. Children also have access to a good variety of toys, books, puzzles and dressing up clothes which provide positive images of different cultures, religions and disability.

The childminder follows her own behaviour management policy to help children to be well behaved and cooperative. She uses positive methods of behaviour management, praises and encourages good behaviour, distracts children with interesting activities and encourages them to be polite, to share and to take turns. She is a good role model who treats children with kindness and respect so that they are happy and content.

Parents appreciate the quality of care and stimulating variety of activities provided for their children. The childminder develops good relationships with them so that they can work together to meet the needs of the children. She provides them with comprehensive information about the setting including the policies and procedures and completes a daily 'two way conversation' book which allows them to share information about the children's activities and progress.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are protected in the setting because the childminder ensures that people who have not been vetted do not come into unsupervised contact with them. The childminder is committed to improving the outcomes for children through ongoing

training. She has completed the 'Quality First' training and is planning to do the 'Birth to three matters' course in the near future. The childminder has contingency plans in place for when she is unavailable so that the continuity of care for children is maintained.

Space and resources are organised so that children have some freedom of movement and can make choices about what they do. The childminder always ensures that the correct ratios are maintained so that children receive good levels of support.

All of the necessary documentation, policies and procedures are in place to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder is well organised and she ensures that her policies and procedures are stored confidentially, regularly updated and shared with parents. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to make the garden safe for children. The childminder has made the garden safe for children by removing the poisonous plants.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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 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):

- keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on request.

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