



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	322278
<b>Inspection date</b>	11 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Margaret Patricia Mellor

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 1995. She lives with her husband and three school age children, in Liverpool. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's home is used for childminding. There is a secure fully enclosed garden for children's outdoor play. The family has two pet guinea pigs.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children aged under 8 years at any one time. She primarily provides care for school age children, term time only. There are four children on roll aged from 5 to 8 years and three children aged over 8 years. The childminder either uses her car or walks to collect children from school and take them places.

The childminder receives support from the Local Authority. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children's health is well protected as the childminder acts in children's best interests when they are ill and stores medication in an accessible place, out of children's reach. The childminder ensures that children use sun creams and hats on hot days so parents' wishes are respected and children remain healthy. She has a relevant first aid certificate and keeps a fully stocked first aid box close at hand so she can quickly respond to any minor injuries. This further safeguards children's well-being.

Children thrive because the childminder vigilantly follows good hygiene procedures throughout her home for cleaning the toys, wiping down work surfaces and looking after the family pets. This helps to prevent the spread of infection so children remain healthy. Children are reinforcing their understanding of how to keep healthy through the childminder's gentle reminders to flush the toilet and as she explains why being hygienic is important. They readily wash their hands before eating or after visiting the toilet and confidently talk about how this helps get rid of germs so they stay well.

Children's understanding of a healthy lifestyle is enhanced because they love to move to music on the dance mat, run in the fresh air, climb and play swing ball or badminton. This builds on their coordination and spatial awareness skills. Children promote their fine motor skills as they relish tactile and manipulative activities, such as cutting, gluing or sticking. Children independently help themselves to a variety of fresh fruit at snack time and tap water when thirsty or after exercise that further benefits their health.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children are looked after in a safe, secure, clean and well maintained environment. The garden area provides a variety of challenge to children in a safe enclosed area. Children's risk of accidentally injuring themselves is minimised because the childminder takes all the necessary precautions to ensure her home is safe. The childminder ensures parents give written permission for children to travel in a vehicle and that all children are appropriately secured so they travel in comfort and safety.

Children enjoy freedom of movement in the childminder's home because there is ample space, which the childminder organises well. They have free access to a generally good range of quality toys and equipment that are suitable for their age while presenting them with appropriate challenges. The toys, games and resources are maintained well because the childminder regularly checks them, so children remain safe. Children are well occupied because they show plenty of interest in the many toys and gain independence as they confidently self select activities that appeal to them.

Children's understanding of how to keep themselves safe is nurtured because they regularly practise what to do if there is a fire and the childminder talks to them about staying close to

adults as they walk to or from school. Children's protection is further assured because the childminder has a strong understanding of indicators of abuse and what to do in the event of identifying a concern. Her willingness to note concerns and discuss these with parents makes safeguarding children a high priority.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are clearly relaxed and at ease in the childminder's home that enhances children's personal, social and emotional development. They benefit from consistent everyday routines, such as snack times and school runs, promoting children's sense of belonging. Children gain independence as they spontaneously choose between playing indoors or in the garden. They happily relax with their friends after school, engage in imaginative play and chat about what they are doing. They eagerly share their ideas as the childminder takes time to listen to what they have to say and, as a result, they are confident to make their needs known to adults. Children have a good understanding of how to behave and keep themselves healthy and safe.

Children have a good time in the childminder's home because she provides them with many enjoyable activities that help to stimulate and build on their skills through play. They are motivated and eagerly participate in a wide range of creative activities such as reading, singing, playing the piano and making robots out of recyclable materials. They extend their imagination as they love to do glass painting and role play with the cars. They have plenty of fun as they do jigsaws and design patterns with hammer beads or Knex that extends their mathematical thinking. Children relish sensory experiences as they listen to music and taste different fruits. They explore a wealth of living things, from flowers to planting a succulent garden to watching the guinea pigs, and as the childminder talks about the birds. This builds on children's understanding of the natural world.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are happy and content in the childminder's home and the warm relationships between the children and childminder helps promote children's sense of belonging. They develop a generally good appreciation of the wider community as they read books, celebrate festivals in school and as the childminder tells them about a child's life that she sponsors in India. However, there are few resources reflecting positive images of gender or disability, which means that children's understanding of different lifestyles is not fully extended.

Children are kind, considerate and thoughtful to one another because the childminder provides a positive role model, encouraging polite interaction. They are busy and involved in the activities and, as a result, children's behaviour is very good. The childminder has high expectations of children and offers praise freely, ensuring that they develop confidence and know when they have done well. Children are developing good social skills and a clear respect for others because they willingly share their favourite toys and take turns. They show consideration and thoughtfulness as they play harmoniously together and respond warmly to one another and the childminder.

Children's needs are met well because warm and friendly relationships have been established between the childminder and parents and information is shared regularly. Parents are warmly greeted as they arrive and engage in easy conversation with the childminder about their children's activities and interests. At the outset, the childminder shows parents her portfolio, which reassures parents that children's interests come first. Parents comment positively about their children's care, safety and activities. This meaningful relationship between home and the childminder very clearly contributes to children's continuity and quality of care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children are well protected because the childminder ensures that they only collected by authorised people, and non-vetted persons are not allowed access to them. They are cared for in a safe, comfortable and generally well equipped environment. The childminder has prepared well written policy statements that help to provide an effective service for the children. All the relevant daily documentation is maintained well, such as children's attendance, accident and medication records. However, there are no complaints records. Generally, good documentation in combination with first aid and child protection training contributes to children's well-being.

Children benefit from good adult support because the childminder is very experienced in childcare as a parent, a Sunday school teacher, and has run a toddler group for six years. She is enthusiastic about improving her knowledge of child development and keeps herself well informed through attendance at training events, such as 'Children's Growth and Development'. This has broadened the childminder's knowledge of child development that enhances children's range of activities and the quality of care offered.

Children are cared for as part of the family and enjoy freedom of movement as there is ample space, which the childminder organises well. They can relax or be active according to their respective needs. They further benefit from regular routines because the childminder plans the activities well. Children have plenty of fun and enjoy both structured and self initiated play as they spontaneously pursue interests that appeal to them. Information is shared with parents regularly, which further contributes to children's continuity of care.

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

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

There are three recommendations of the previous report, which refer to documentation. The childminder has devised written policies about the exclusion of sick children and child protection; and made available to parents a written procedure to follow should they have a complaint or concern about the quality of care offered.

### **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 complaint 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):

- improve the range of resources that promotes children's understanding of equal opportunities
- devise and implement complaints records in line with new guidance.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)