



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	308656
Inspection date	27 April 2006
Inspector	Ferroza Saiyed
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 four children all aged under the age of 9 years. They live in a semi-detached house located in the central area of Blackpool. The home is close to the park, sport centre, schools and shops.

Minded children have access to whole of the ground floor of the house, which includes the play room, the front lounge, the dining room and the kitchen. The two bedrooms on the first floor are used for children's sleep and there are toilet facilities for children to access. Children have fully enclosed outdoor area for physical play.

Registration is for a total of three children from 0 - 8 years. There are three children on roll all under the age of 5 years. The childminder holds nursery nurse qualification and is a member of Early Years Network - Children Come First.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is promoted because the childminder has a good understanding of simple hygiene practices. She makes sure children can play in a clean environment, which prevents cross infection. Their well-being is maintained because the appropriate documentation is in place, for example, medication and accident records are kept up to date. The children look forward to outdoor play which they enjoy on a regular basis, such as walks to the park, shopping, activity centre, and they also take pleasure in dancing round the room at the time of the inspection. This promotes their physical development, which contributes to their good health.

The children enjoy the benefits of a healthy diet with regular drinks. They are encouraged to sit together and feed themselves. This helps promote independence and they demonstrate good manners during snacks and meals which are a sociable time for them. The childminder takes into account individual dietary needs and shares the menu with parents. The children are provided with healthy options to enable them to select good nutritious food.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The premises are welcoming; the children are very happy and secure and have a sense of belonging. However, the temperature of the home is cold. As a result, children's well-being is not appropriately catered for. Children access a selection of age appropriate toys and activities in a safe home environment. Children's safety is promoted because toys are well organised in boxes at their level and they are able to access these freely.

The childminder helps children to understand how to keep themselves safe by discussing the need to hold hands when outside. She further promotes safety when children are on outings by using appropriate restraints.

The children have a good understanding of safety, for example, children put on their apron and cooking gloves, because they were pretending to cook and not to touch hot baking trays. The children's risk of accidental injury is minimised by the childminder undertaking comprehensive risk assessment, being conscious of hazards and by placing safety features in place.

The childminder has a clear understanding of the responsibilities for recording and reporting alleged child protection concerns. She was able to demonstrate contact details of relevant bodies. However, the child protection procedure does not outline what she would do if an allegation is made against a member of the family, this compromise's children's safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The children have an extremely positive relationship with the childminder. They engage the childminder in their activities, laughing and making gestures with the childminder, which develops their self-esteem and gives them a sense of belonging. They are provided with a broad range of resources from which they can self-select and make decisions about their play. The children are independent as they choose from a variety of stimulating and exciting toys, books and activities. For example, children made food items and shapes with play dough. This promotes their creativity, development and enjoyment. As a result, they become confident to extend their knowledge in a creative and meaningful way.

They develop their language and communication skills through the use of books, stories and nursery rhymes. The children enjoy story time, they actively contribute and take part, expressing their own ideas and thoughts. Indoor space, the garden, visits to community groups and trips to places of interest all allow children to discover new environments and promote highly stimulating experiences. This provides them with inspiring and challenging opportunities to develop social and intellectual skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is outstanding.

The children are valued and respected as individuals, which helps to give them a sense of belonging. They are able to experience a positive view of the wider world and increase their understanding of diversity through images and experiences offered to them. For example, they are beginning to recognize similarities and differences through first hand experiences with each other and the wider world in a positive way. Children with special educational needs or specific individual needs are fostered by the childminder. For example, plans are in place to support and further enhance specific needs, which demonstrate the childminder's knowledge and understanding of this area of practice.

Children effectively learn about good behaviour through positive reinforcement and excellent role modelling by the childminder who is calm and caring. She takes the time to explain and uses appropriate strategies taking into account individual levels of understanding. For example, when a child became tired of an activity, the childminder used diversion as a strategy to encourage their interest in other play items.

Partnership with parents contributes significantly to children's well-being. The childminder actively seeks parent's views about their children's needs and interests and uses this information as a starting point to ensure she meets the expectations of parents. A positive and effective relationship is fostered; she ensures parents are fully informed of her care practice. She allows time at the end of each day for parent's to discuss their child's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has all regulatory documentation in place, which is well maintained and up to date. Children feel secure and settled within a well organised environment. There are effective and clear policies in place to promote children's learning and development as well as their welfare. Documentation is appropriately shared to enhance the quality of care each child receives, confidentiality is acknowledged and maintained.

The organisation of the setting is effective with room for children to move freely and self-select resources. The childminder has an informal routine in place, which is based on the children's needs thus enabling them to gain maximum enjoyment from activities provided. The childminder is pro-active in improving her service by attending childcare courses and looking to develop her childcare skills to further meet the needs of all children.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

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):

- maintain a suitable temperature of the rooms used for childminding
- ensure the procedure for what to do, if an allegation is made against a member of the family, is included in the child protection policy.

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