



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY310283
Inspection date	23 March 2006
Inspector	June Cotton

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 2005. She lives with her two children aged 12 and 3 in Walton, Liverpool. The whole ground floor plus the bathroom and one bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed outside play area.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children under 5 during the day. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group. The family has two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they learn the importance of good personal hygiene, for example, they know to wash their hands and brush their teeth to be clean and healthy. The childminder promotes good hygiene practices in the setting by ensuring toys and the environment are clean. As a result, children are cared for in a well-maintained setting which reduces the risk of cross-infection.

Children begin to understand the benefits of a healthy diet. The childminder takes into account the dietary requirements of children and works in partnership with parents to ensure children have healthy nutritious foods. Meals are well balanced and offered in line with home routines.

Children enjoy physical activity which promotes good health, such as having regular fresh air and exercise. They make good use of equipment which promotes their all round development, such as climbing apparatus in toddler groups and mini trampolines. They play in the outside play area daily, riding on bikes and pushing prams.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The environment is very welcoming to children offering sufficient space for play and to pursue a variety of activities. Colourful pictures, posters and notice boards ensure an attractive stimulating environment. The room used for childminding is well lit and warm, to enable children to play in comfort. Children are able to access toys and books easily from the open shelving and floor level storage boxes. A range of age appropriate toys is attractively set out to encourage children to explore and play, for example shape sorters, musical toys, building blocks and role play equipment. The childminder has a wide range of play equipment which is of good quality and conform to safety standards.

Children are cared for in a generally safe setting. They are able to move around the ground floor level freely and are protected from harm because appropriate safety equipment is used including safety gates, a fire guard and electrical socket covers. The childminder maintains a high level of supervision at all times. Children are safeguarded as the childminder has a good 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 are emotionally secure. They settle quickly due to their home routines being followed by the childminder, which is comforting for them. Toddlers are finding their

voice, by being encouraged to vocalise whilst playing. Children are learning to be independent, they happily choose their play equipment from that on display and are supported by the childminder in carrying this out. They are learning to socialise when the childminder takes them out to the park and to toddler groups. They enjoy their play, for example, when playing instruments, riding on bikes and pushing dolls prams.

Children enjoy an adequate balance of activities to support their all round development. The childminder does not yet use the Birth to three matters framework to help her find simple resources and ideas through domestic routines and equipment to promote their language and intellectual development. Children concentrate well, such as when they build pyramid rings and complete shape sorters. The childminder encourages their learning, for example, when she counts and points out colours during play.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are treated with equal regard and their differing needs are met well. Children are warmly welcomed into the setting and have good opportunities to learn about themselves and the wider world. They have access to resources that reflect positive images of society, for instance books, jigsaws and small play figures. This promotes their understanding of the world and provides children with positive images of race, culture, disability and gender. Consequently, children are developing self-esteem and respect for others. The childminder fosters children's self-esteem by acknowledging their successes, for example, children are praised when they manage to fit rings onto the pile up toy.

Children have good behaviour which is encouraged by meaningful praise and high levels of support from the childminder. The children know they are valued as the childminder gives them full attention and immediately responds to them. They feel secure as the childminder is familiar with their routines and supports them well in gaining confidence, for example encouraging children with independent feeding. Partnership with parents contributes significantly to the children's care and well-being. The childminder ensures that she finds out as much information about the children before they start with her to ensure she can meet their needs. They are well informed of all aspects of the service both verbally and through comprehensive written information. The childminder ensures that the parents are fully informed of their child's day through informal chats at the end of the day, as well as through their daily folders.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from the childminder's thoughtful approach to their care and well being. She has further developed her childcare knowledge through training which is beneficial to their needs. The children feel at home and are comfortable with the daily

routine and organisation which means they are confidently exploring and investigating play materials and equipment.

Written policies and procedures are used during discussions with parents and information is shared with them daily, keeping them informed about the service and their child's development. She keeps well organised records and policies and shares these appropriately with parents, thus contributing to safeguarding the children. The rooms in the childminder's home are well laid out to incorporate free play and relaxation. Children have good support in the way in which resources and activities are used for their social, emotional, physical and creative development, giving them great enjoyment. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration/the last inspection.

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):

- use the Birth to three matters framework to further improve knowledge of child development and use this to monitor children's progress, provide activities and resources to promote their development, and share information with parents.

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:
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