



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY318601  
**Inspection date** 15 March 2006  
**Inspector** Harpal Thandi

**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](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 2005. She lives with her 13-year-old daughter on the outskirts of Blackpool in the county of Lancashire. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder attends the local pop in group and takes children to the local library and to the local park.

The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding one child who attends on a full time basis.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are healthy because the childminder has an understanding of good hygiene practices. For example, children are encouraged to wash and dry their hands carefully, using individual towels. This prevents the spread of infection. Children's wellbeing is maintained because appropriate documentation is kept up to date, for example, medication records.

Children benefit from having fresh air and exercise as they have access to outdoor play and activities on a regular basis. This includes walks to local parks, the duck pond, as well as playing in the garden. This promotes their physical development and contributes to their good health.

Children enjoy a balanced and nutritious diet of home cooked meals and snacks which include pasta, rice, cous cous, tofu, soya mince, vegetables, wholemeal bread and fruit. This aids the development of both physical and mental growth. Children understand the importance of healthy eating as the childminder talks to them about foods which are good for them, for example, children understand fruit is healthy and that sweets and lollipops are not.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel secure and at ease because they are cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. Space is organised well. This allows children to move freely between activities which encourages their sense of independence. Children happily select activities from the accessible range of toys and equipment. These are regularly cleaned by the childminder and monitored to make sure they are safe and appropriate to the children's age and stage of development.

Children are kept safe and secure because the childminder has taken steps to ensure the children's safety, both inside and outside the home. She has all the necessary health and safety equipment such as stair gates and cupboard catches in place. The childminder helps children to understand how to keep themselves safe, for example, by practising the emergency evacuation procedures with them and teaching them how to cross the road safely.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues, for example, she is alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse and knows the procedures to follow if she has concerns about the well-being of a child in her care.

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a warm relationship with the childminder and settle well, which contributes to a sense of belonging and has a positive effect on their emotional well-being. Children's language and communication skills are developed through talking and reading together. Their mathematical thinking is enhanced through play, for example, by recognising numerals on a poster, counting the foam number shapes and playing matching games.

Children's creativity is enhanced through a range of interesting activities which are planned according to their interests such as making robots, dinosaurs and dragons using a selection of creative materials. The childminder has set up a book containing examples of art activities the children have undertaken this includes blow painting and shape printing. Children also enjoy playing with gloop and dressing up.

Children learn to take responsibility, for example, by helping to tidy away. They are encouraged to make their own play choices and help to plan the structure of the day which helps them to feel relaxed and builds on their independence skills.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder offers an induction period which is set up after discussion with parents. She finds out as much information about the child as possible, including their routine which she follows as closely as she can. She also encourages the children to bring comforters from home, such as a favourite blanket. As a result, good relationships are established and children feel secure and settle in well.

The childminder uses a range of age appropriate strategies to manage unwanted behaviour such as removal from a situation; talking to children calmly to diffuse the situation; letting the children tell her what the problem is and then explaining to them the consequences of their behaviour, for example, throwing something can hurt someone. As a result, children learn quickly which behaviour is inappropriate. Positive behaviour from children is rewarded through praise for example, using good manners. This raises their self-esteem and re-enforces the positive behaviour.

Children gain a positive understanding of diversity and the world around them through a range of interesting activities such as food tasting and making collages for Chinese New Year. They also have access to a selection of appropriate resources which include multi cultural dressing up clothes, play figures and a selection of books.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children feel at home and at ease in the setting as it is organised and effective in meeting their needs. They have access to all areas of the house and an outdoor play area. This maximises their opportunities for all round development. They are able to initiate their own play and learning in an environment where the resources are easily

accessible to them, for example, in low level drawers.

Information is shared with parents and good communication ensures children's welfare, care and learning is fostered. The childminder does not have written parental consent for seeking emergency medical treatment for the children in her care, although all other legally required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well being is in place. 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 have been 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 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):

- obtain written parental permission for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

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