



Inspection report for early years provision

**Unique Reference Number** EY321487  
**Inspection date** 21 June 2006  
**Inspector** Janet, Elizabeth Singleton

**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 February 2006. She lives with her son aged five years in Great Harwood, Blackburn. The whole of the property is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding two children who attend on a full and part time basis.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and has links with other childminders in the area and attends the local toddler group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder understands good hygiene practices. She reminds children to wash their hands and talks about why and how, for example, to use soap and warm water and how to dry their hands. She discusses with the children how this removes germs, therefore, promoting their understanding. Children's nappy changing follows their individual routine and is effective in limiting cross contamination.

Children enjoy a healthy balanced diet as they are provided with fresh fruit and vegetables. Meals are home cooked and the childminder understands the need to provide five portions of fruit and vegetables per day. She links with parents to encourage younger children to try healthy, home made foods using fresh produce.

Younger children delight in the positive interaction of the childminder. She sits with, cuddles, supports and assists children in their physical play as they experiment with sitting, rolling and reaching for their toys.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a home that is clean, safe and welcoming having room to move freely and choose from a wide range of toys and equipment. They make choices from very suitable and good quality equipment including jigsaws, building bricks, books and educational games to promote their overall learning and independence.

Children are kept safe because the childminder has highly effective safety procedures including a comprehensive risk assessment. They learn to keep themselves safe because the childminder talks about danger to them. They discuss with the inspector the need to hold hands or the pram when out walking and not to run as they might fall demonstrating their developing understanding of safe practices.

Children's welfare is protected because the childminder understands her role in child protection. She is aware of the signs of child abuse and is confident in the action to take should any issues arise.

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

The provision is good.

Children are provided with activities which meet their needs because the childminder provides a good balance of topics which includes art and craft. She follows the child's individual choices, for example, children ask for the building bricks, jigsaws, games or to go for walks to the park. The childminder promotes children's development by

keeping observations on the children and planning activities to meet their individual needs.

Children are developing their confidence and esteem by having very positive relationships with the childminder. Interaction is good as the childminder sits with and talks to the children about their play, asking 'what would you like to do?' 'Do you know what noise lions make'? Children link sounds to letters as they discuss T for T-shirt and kicking K for kite, during the alphabet game. They readily name the colours and shapes as they play, chatter and sit together, making jigsaws and reading books.

The childminder includes younger children very well as she keeps them interested by moving resources within reach and building towers for them to knock over. Therefore, younger children feel included and can take part in games and activities appropriate to them.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder understands equality of opportunity for all children as she ensures all children are included and can access the activities provided. Although children are provided with a varied range of resources, they are not provided with enough to reflect diversity and to learn about peoples differences. Children are fully included as the childminder has an understanding of children who have learning difficulties or disabilities and to take appropriate action to identify a child.

Children are learning how to manage their behaviour because the childminder has positive strategies in place. For example, setting consistent boundaries and using distraction to divert the child onto another activity. She uses praise to encourage sound behaviour and ensures children use their manners by saying 'please' and 'thank you' when asking for things.

The childminder fosters positive relationship with parents as she shares quality information, polices and procedures with them. She makes time to discuss issues with the parents to enable them to be fully aware of her childcare practice which contributes to the children's well-being.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children can play and learn in an environment that is organised to meet their needs with room to move freely and choose good quality toys and equipment. The front room is used as a playroom in which children choose activities and make decisions about their play. The toys and equipment are stored safely and are readily available to children assisting them in making choices.

The childminder has links with other childminders within the local area and attends the toddler group. The regulatory documentation is very well organised and up to

date. The childminder evaluates her practice and attends training in childcare to increase her skills and knowledge and to improve the care of the children. There are effective policies and procedures in place to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children.

The certificate of registration is not displayed and therefore parents may not be aware of the conditions of registration.

Overall the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

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

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been 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):

- continue to build up on resources which reflect diversity
- ensure the certificate of registration is displayed.

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)