



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	303986
Inspection date	24 October 2006
Inspector	Jeanne Lesley Walsh
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 1990. She lives with her husband, her adult son and her 12 year old daughter. They live in the Disley area of Cheshire. Children are cared for mainly on the ground floor of the house in the lounge, dining room and kitchen. Upstairs there is access to the family bathroom and children may have occasional supervised access to the rear bedroom. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for six children under eight years. The registration does not include overnight care. Children may be taken to and from school and on outings to the local park, shops and library, with parental consent. There are currently eight children on roll all attending on a part time basis. The family have several pets including a dog.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's health is carefully considered by the childminder. She discusses children's individual needs with their parents and she provides care accordingly. She provides a warm, clean environment for children and she promotes good standards of hygiene and personal care. Children routinely wash their hands before and after visiting the toilet, after playing outside and at other appropriate times of the day. Good nappy changing procedures are observed to be in place. The childminder also uses hygienic wipes and makes good use of tissues for runny noses. The childminder states that she reminds the children not to cough in other people's faces and as she does so, one child says "yes because it spreads germs and we always put our rubbish in the bin." Children are learning good practice.

The childminder has appropriate accident and medication documentation and records available. She keeps these up to date and obtains parental consent for any emergency treatment that may be required. She holds a current first aid certificate, which ensures children's well-being in the event of an accident.

Children are becoming aware of the importance of regular exercise as the childminder encourages them to take part in physical activities most days. The children explain that they go to the park, usually after school, and they run around. One child talks about burning up energy through exercise and how it helps to keep you healthy. Another child tells the inspector that the zoo keeper makes sure that the animals get exercise every day. The children talk about how exercise makes their heart beat faster and they know that when they sit down to rest it slows down again. They also know that they become thirsty after exercise and they need a drink. They are clearly learning the importance of good regular exercise and they are beginning to understand the effects it has on their bodies.

Discussion with the children confirms that they are well aware of healthy eating programmes. They talk confidently about how fruit and vegetables are good for you listing broccoli, parsnips and carrots. One child remembers that chips are not good for you because they are cooked in oil. They know that chocolate and fizzy drinks are not good for you because of the fat and the sugar in them. Meals are organised as a good social occasion when children are encouraged to chat with each other and remember good manners. The children describe how they sit at the kitchen table to eat their meals. They tell the inspector they have to say please and thank you and they talk about how they help to tidy up after themselves. The childminder has discussion with parents about children's individual dietary needs. She ensures that food provided is in accordance with parent's wishes.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and safe environment where they are able to participate freely in a good range of play activities. Space is well organised so that they can play comfortably. They make choices for themselves and they move around the premises safely

and confidently, knowing that the childminder gives them her full support. The equipment is of good quality, clean and in a good state of repair. Equipment also conforms to safety standards. Security is good and children are not able to leave the premises unsupervised. They remain under the direct supervision of the childminder at all times.

The children are learning what is dangerous and how to keep themselves safe. They demonstrate awareness of road safety as they talk about how they wait for the green man signal at the crossing. They know that they must hold hands and stay with the childminder to keep safe. They enthusiastically chat about how they have glow in the dark stickers for their coats and bags on dark nights. One child tells the inspector that the baby will fall out of its buggy if you don't put the straps on. The children are learning about their own safety and the safety of others.

The childminder has made every effort to minimise the risk of accident and injury, both in the home and on outings. For example, she obtains all relevant consent forms from parents and insurances are up to date. She protects children from the risk of fire because smoke alarms are fitted on all levels of the house. There is a fire blanket in the kitchen, plugs are protected and wiring is secure and there is a carbon monoxide detector in place. There is an emergency evacuation procedure in place and although this is not practised, children talk about the dangers of smoke and fire.

Children are protected because clear guidelines and procedures are in place to actively safeguard and promote their welfare. The childminder is fully aware of Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures and her responsibility to implement them. She has recently completed additional training to further develop her own knowledge, so that she can protect the children in her care. She demonstrates that she is able to recognise possible signs and symptoms of abuse. She records all accidents and incidents that happen to children and she is aware of procedures to follow should she have concerns.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and busy in the childminder's home. Photographic evidence shows that they also enjoy regular outings to various places of interest, such as the zoo and the local park. The play areas are well prepared for the children, set out with a wide range of toys and activities all within easy reach. The children freely choose and help themselves to what they want to do, which promotes their independence. They are encouraged and supported to play alone or together in groups. Children of all ages confidently explore the activities and are engaged in a good range of opportunities.

During the inspection the older children are busy constructing coloured blocks to make an owl. They show good concentration skills, patience and determination when they struggle to make the blocks fit. One child confidently explains to another child how to put the red block on first and offers to help saying that it might be a bit hard to do. Their faces are a picture of complete pride and satisfaction as they finally achieve their aim. The children are learning to consider each other and to help each other.

A younger child is developing its imaginative skills as it plays with the circus truck. It presses the buttons to make the animals twirl and watches and listens with delight as the music plays. The children are confident and happy to talk freely to the inspector showing her how their toys work and explaining what they are doing. The children play well together and they help each other to enjoy the good range of toys and activities.

The childminder encourages children's communication skills through talking, asking questions and answering questions. She challenges their number recognition and counting skills. For example the children are counting the legs on the octopus. The childminder asks how many legs has the octopus got and she matches the number to the number on the child's T shirt. The children continue to practise numbers with the giant tape measure moving around the room measuring arms and legs. The childminder extends their learning again by asking questions and making them think.

There is much evidence of previous activities done by the children. Examples of their work and photographs show children's involvement in a whole range of creative activities from making wind chimes and fossils to making finger puppets and crayoning. The childminder provides good support for the children but is conscious of giving them space to develop their independence. She knows when it is appropriate for her to step back and allow the children time to try things out for themselves. She demonstrates good skills and she has a calm sensitive approach to the needs of the children. Children are happy and learning and they are developing socially, physically and intellectually. Their individual needs are being met.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are treated with equal concern because the childminder ensures a consistent approach to their care. She ensures that their individual needs are met through discussion with the parents. She also obtains all relevant information to ensure continuity of care and to ensure that children are valued as individuals. Children are learning about diversity because the childminder provides a good range of toys and activities that help to promote positive images and these are in use on a daily basis.

Children are becoming aware of their local community because they enjoy regular outings. They visit the park and the local coffee morning and toddler group, where there is a mixed age range from children to grandparents. Photographic evidence shows the children on a recent trip to the local park where they enjoyed chain link fencing with strips of material. Children confidently talk about the world and other countries. They know the world spins and why daylight changes to dark and they talk about different planets. The children are already learning about the wider world.

Children behave well in the setting and are starting to learn about right and wrong. They respond positively to the childminder who is a good role model for them. She sets a very positive example, remaining calm and speaking gently to the children. She offers them praise and encouragement constantly and she celebrates their achievements. She is aware of different age groups and stages of development and she sets appropriate boundaries that children can achieve. The

children are learning to respect and care for each other. They receive lots of praise, explanation and reassurance.

Children benefit because the childminder and the parents regularly share information. Daily discussion keeps parents informed of the child's progress and parents have access to appropriate documentation, such as policies and procedures. Information provided by parents confirms that they are very pleased with the quality of care their children receive and their children are happy and content.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are happy and settled in an environment that is organised so that they can play in comfort and enjoy a good range of activities. Children of all ages benefit from a well planned day and they receive lots of encouragement, time and attention from the childminder, which promotes their independence and helps to develop their self-esteem.

The children's care is agreed with parents through regular discussions and written contracts. The childminder has good policy documents in place and her records are appropriately maintained and kept confidentially. Effective procedures keep children safe from persons who are not vetted. The childminder also ensures that children are under her supervision at all times.

She holds appropriate qualifications and demonstrates a good commitment to her own personal development, by attending a good range of additional training to improve her skills. She uses her new knowledge effectively to help her to provide children with wider experiences. The children are cared for in a secure environment where they can develop and achieve at their own pace. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that all special health and care requirements are recorded. She has added a clause to her contracts to remind parents to keep her informed of any matters relating to the children's health and any changes. She also reminds them on their monthly bill.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards. 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

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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):

- practise the emergency evacuation plan with the children.

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