



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY152317
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Susan Patricia Birkenhead
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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 May 2002. She lives with her husband, mother and five year-old son. The family live in the Stockton Heath area of Warrington. The whole ground floor and the bathroom and son's bedroom on the first floor of the childminder's house are used for childminding. The garden area is currently not accessible to the minded children and therefore arrangements to take children to the local parks are in place.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding five children, all of whom attend on a part-time basis.

The childminder walks from school on occasions and attends the local toddler groups regularly.

The childminder has three cats.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children stay healthy because the childminder follows effective practices and procedures. For example, the detailed exclusion guidelines associated with sick and infectious children are available on file and shared with parents initially. This makes parents aware of the good practices followed and ensures children are not cared for when they are ill. Children are introduced to positive aspects of personal hygiene as they use wipes or wash their hands before eating and after toileting. Therefore, children are developing their understanding of personal hygiene and are protected from the risk of infection from a young age. Children rest or sleep according to their individual needs and develop an understanding of the importance that this has on their overall well-being.

Children engage in varied activities to promote their physical development and skills. For example, they are taken to the park on a regular basis where they can access larger apparatus for climbing, swinging, sliding and young children kick the football skilfully. They dance to music, manipulate play dough, use painting and drawing materials and complete inset puzzles to encourage the development of the finer manipulative skills. The children walk to school on occasions and are taken on local walks as part of their routine. As a result, children are developing a good level of control and coordination over their bodies.

The children's dietary needs are met, because the childminder is fully committed to promoting healthy eating with children and has completed a healthy lifestyles training course to further develop her knowledge and understanding. Their likes, dislikes and parents wishes are respected and children's favourites incorporated into the available provision. The childminder and the parents work together to enable the needs of the children to be met. The childminder refers to aspects that are healthy during snack times and meal times. Drinking water and fruit juices are accessible throughout the day to ensure children remain refreshed. Children's independence is encouraged as the drinking beakers are accessible within the play areas, which young children access when thirsty. Older children can help themselves to drink from the fridge and younger children are introduced to feeding themselves with finger foods at lunch time and snack time. Therefore, children are beginning to recognise the importance that healthy foods have on their overall well-being and develop their independence.

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

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in an environment which is very warm and welcoming to parents and their children. For example, they are greeted warmly and welcomed into the childminder's home. Play materials are set out for the children to access on arrival to attract their interest. Children's art work and photographs are displayed on the fridge in the kitchen and the childminder plans to extend her displays in the future. Children show confidence as they move between the areas accessible to them on the ground floor. The efficient organisation of the space available enables the children to relax, sleep, eat and play in comfort. Children have access to a wide range of stimulating play materials which are rotated on a regular basis to

further extend the children's stimulation. Play materials are safely and efficiently stored to allow easy access to them according to their age and stage of development. For example, toddler play materials are set out at floor level before arrival. The storage cupboard in the kitchen is accessible to older children to select play materials of their choice. This contributes to the children's sense of belonging and encourages children to feel secure.

Children's safety is promoted very well within the setting. Positive steps are taken to minimise risks, for example, socket covers, smoke detectors that are checked weekly, cupboard locks, safety gates and a fire guard are all in place. The childminder has completed an impressive risk assessment of the premises where work is ongoing or planned. For example, in the outdoor area. Visual checks are completed daily to ensure the environment is safe. A range of suitable equipment is accessible to meet the children's needs which include a travel cot for sleeping, a high chair for eating meals at the table and a double buggy for walks. The written policy in place informs parents of the detailed procedures followed for emergencies. Children learn to keep themselves and others safe, as the childminder clearly explains unsafe practices to them and the consequences of their actions. They practice road safety during walks and reins are in place for younger children. As a result children remain safe both inside and outside the childminding environment.

The children are protected well because the childminder has a positive understanding of the role she plays in protecting children from abuse. She clearly recognises the signs to look for and the procedures she would follow for reporting such concerns. The child protection policy in place outlines the role she plays in protecting children and contain details of the Social Services contacts. Therefore, children's welfare is safeguarded.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and confident in the care of the childminder because they have developed positive relationships with her. They are made to feel extremely welcome because they are greeted warmly by the childminder. The play materials are accessible to them on arrival in the lounge at floor level to which the children show immediate attention. Children engage in various play opportunities throughout their stay. For example, they play freely and can select from the range of resources in place and watch the children's programmes on the television with the childminder. They discuss the content of the programme and the childminder asks questions to promote children's thinking. For example, she asks 'which of the animals live on the farm' to which children respond by pointing and repeating the word 'pig' and begin to grunt. They play with the activity toys and questions, such as 'which is the blue ball' encourage children from a young age to develop their understanding of colour. The children are responsive to this. The daily routine is organised around the more structured times for visits to parent and toddlers weekly, meal times, sleep times and school runs. Other worthwhile opportunities include, visits to the park, creative activities, walks to feed the ducks and they celebrate different times of the year through planned activities. For example, they make lanterns to recognise Chinese New Year and sample Chinese foods. Planned visits to parents and toddlers and the childminder's group allow children opportunities to socialise with other children. Therefore,

they are provided with various opportunities to extend their learning in all aspects of their development, which are purposeful and developmentally appropriate.

Activities are approached with some degree of planning and approached with flexibility to include all children cared for. Examples of activities and experiences are listed in the daily diary in place. The childminder engages in conversation with the children during their stay and communication is appropriate to the ages and stages of the children cared for. They share laughter and are responsive to the childminder. She recognises the importance of children having opportunities to explore and investigate how things work on their own and with support. Therefore, children are encouraged to have fun within the varied routine followed, where effective support and guidance is provided.

The children benefit from the childminder's understanding of the Birth to three matters framework. Plans are in place to use the framework to promote effective practice in the care of young children up to three years of age. Relevant training is currently being attended. Aspects of the framework are very apparent within the childminder's care.

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

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and the information exchanged with their parents initially enables the childminder to meet their needs well. The equal opportunities policy developed outlines how discrimination is opposed and all children are treated with equal concern, providing the same chances for them all. Children have equal access to play and stimulation, without stereotyping. They learn about people's differences through the activity work, as they celebrate different festivals throughout the year, and some resources. The childminder is responsive to questions asked promoting positive images of diversity within our society. This encourages children to learn from example and develop respect for others through play.

Children's behaviour is managed effectively because the written policy shared with parents highlights the childminder's understanding and reinforces non tolerance of bullying. The children are learning to recognise what is acceptable through the effective methods used for managing their behaviour and the good role model the childminder provides. For example, the childminder offers positive explanations allowing children time to reflect on their behaviour. Children's achievements and good behaviour are rewarded with a consistent level of praise, which contributes to the development of the children's self-esteem and confidence. As a result, the children are well behaved, learn to respect others and responsive to the childminder's intervention.

Good relationships are developed with parents through the childminder's approach to the children's care. For example, they discussed aspects within the portfolio and are given specific information. This makes parents aware of the practices and procedures followed relating to the care of the children. They complete record and consent forms and contracts to agree appropriate care. The childminder recognises the importance of good communication with parents to ensure consistent care is provided. As a result, the childminder records information in the daily diary which outlines the details of the children's day. This includes activities completed and relevant individual information which is fed back verbally to parents on collection.

Records held are reviewed with parents annually. The recent changes to the management of complaints has not been addressed and neither is there a system in place for recording the details of any complaints the childminder may receive. An emergency action plan has been developed making parents aware of the procedures followed. Therefore, children benefit from the level of information exchanged to promote continuity of care.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is fully committed and enthusiastic about the role she plays in caring for children. She protects children through close supervision when in the company of persons not vetted and whilst on outings. She has registered her mother in law and husband as her assistants, however, they are rarely used to assist the childminder with the care of the children. The children are cared for in an organised environment that enables them to feel relaxed and secure. The positive organisation of the play space available contributes to the children's development of independence under close supervision from a young age. The childminder shows considerable commitment to attending additional training. For example, she has attended numerous early years courses which include, healthy lifestyles, portfolio building, challenging parents, managing your business, creative crafts, good practice inclusion, positive images, communication skills, promoting opportunities, NVQ Level 2 in Play work and is currently attending the Birth to three matters training and completing the National Childminder's Quality Assurance Scheme. She is committed to her childminding role and children benefit from the numerous courses attended.

Children receive a good level of adult support due to the number of children currently cared for. The childminder is generally very organised in her approach to record keeping and has reference materials on file to support her in her role. Professional systems in the main are in place to ensure all the necessary documentation is in place. However, she currently records details of any accidents in a small exercise book which is not considered suitable for promoting confidentiality. In addition the childminder has not always included the details of the action taken if a child has an accident. The certificate of registration is prominently displayed in the kitchen, making parents aware of the conditions of registration. The well developed portfolio enables the childminder to share practices and procedures with parents. This makes them aware of the good practices and procedures followed and outlines the role the childminder plays in the care of their children.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

During the last inspection the childminder agreed to fix the smoke alarm appropriately. Since the last inspection the childminder has located smoke alarms on both floors of the house which are checked weekly. Therefore, children's safety is further promoted.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 01/04/2004.

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):

- develop a system for the recording of complaints received
- ensure a confidential system is in place for the recording of accidents and the details recorded contain what action was taken.

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