



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307749
Inspection date	31 July 2006
Inspector	Wendy Fitton
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 registered in 1989 and is registered to care for a maximum of six children. There are currently seven children on roll, five under five attending on a full and part-time basis. Some children attend before and after school with occasional holiday care.

She lives in the Whalley area of the Ribble Valley in Lancashire. Her family include her husband, three children aged 20, 19 and 12 and a family dog.

Children access a playroom, dining kitchen, downstairs bathroom, main lounge for quiet activities and an outdoor play area. Children participate in activities outside the home environment and attend the local pre school that the childminder manages and they visit the park, library and shops.

The childminder has a Level 3 qualification in childcare and has completed first aid training, child protection and food hygiene training. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children stay really healthy and are protected from infection and are well cared for if they become unwell. The premises are very clean and children wash their hands after messy activities, after the toilet and when they have touched the dog. Children know and understand why they need to wash their hands as they state they do not want to get germs or they might be sick. The childminder follows sickness procedures and is aware of informing Ofsted of any communicable diseases. Children's welfare is promoted through medication and accident procedures, parents sign all records and sign consent for medicines required. All health policies are displayed on a notice board for parents to refer to. The childminder has completed current first aid training and has a first aid box.

Children rest and sleep according to their needs and can lie on the settee or use a travel cot. Children know about keeping fit and staying healthy and follow a routine of fresh air and regular exercise. They talk about keeping fit and growing strong as they play in the garden on apparatus, walk to the park, feed the ducks and throw and catch balls. Children know about the sunshine being good for you, but talk about protecting their skin from burning when they use sun screen.

Children are well nourished and participate in a variety of learning activities to help them understand why they clean their teeth, eat fruit and vegetables and have regular drinks. The childminder has a good understanding of a balanced diet and works with parents to ensure that all individual dietary needs are catered for. Children are enjoying the current theme of foods from around the world; they make pizzas, ice cream, taste different cheeses and use different types of pasta to create collages and carry out food experiments. Children access their own drinks and have their own individual bottles that they use in the garden or on outings. Children enjoy a snack in the morning and afternoon and one cooked meal if required. A menu offers a variety of foods that are healthy and home cooked.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for in a very safe, secure, warm and welcoming environment. Areas are organised creatively and effectively and the children can play, eat and relax in safety and comfort. They move freely and can play on the floor or at the table without any unnecessary restriction. A playroom is set up with toys and resources with low easy access units for storage and self-selection. Children paint and carry out messy activities on the kitchen table. Children feel a sense of belonging as they see displays, posters and their own art work displayed around the playroom, to create a homely, child centred environment.

Children can make choices from an extensive range of really suitable resources and equipment that is safe and suitable for a variety of ages and stages. For example, construction toys, role play equipment, art and craft materials, large physical play equipment, educational toys and books. Furniture and equipment includes a large activity table, travel cot, car seats and booster seats, crockery, a child sized toilet seat, a settee in the playroom for relaxation and storage units at children's level.

Children know how to keep themselves safe both inside and outside the premises. They talk about sun safety, stranger danger and safety in relation to climbing on the furniture. They understand and learn about fire safety and follow the evacuation procedures and know to get out quickly and to ring the emergency number. Children are not exposed to risks or hazards as the childminder carries out risk assessments and has all necessary safety features in place. For example, fireguard, socket covers, safety gate and insurance cover. Children are secure in the premises, they are well supervised and a gate limits access to the exits that are unlocked during the day.

Children are well protected from abuse as the childminder has a good understanding of how to protect children, knowing that their welfare is her first priority. She is aware of signs and symptoms and alert to any concerns. She has up to date information and the referral procedure is displayed for parents. The child protection policy and procedure is very detailed and is signed and acknowledged by parents. The childminder has completed recent training in child protection.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with an extensive range of activities and experiences to meet their all round needs for development and learning. The childminder follows an informal plan and takes children on outings to parks, the library and walks to shops. Children enjoy playing in the garden, and during term-time they attend the pre school that is managed by the childminder. Children really enjoy playing with the farmyard and animals, role playing as hairdressers, using the computer and dressing and undressing dolls.

Children are very happy and settled as they play on the floor and the childminder joins in their play, chatting and discussing their families, holidays and past events and trips out. Children enjoy painting and using colours creatively when doing handprints. The childminder positively supports and encourages the children to enjoy and achieve, she asks questions to challenge children's thinking. Children develop their social skills through story times and circle times. They have good relationships with each other and play with a purpose, sharing, chatting and learning as the childminder explains to them why things are and what things do.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning about diversity and the childminder understands equality of opportunity for all children. She discusses any issues with children and will challenge any discrimination. Children experience various resources as they play with different family play people, puppets

that show different skin tones, cultures and disabilities. There are books that discuss feelings and everyday situation books. Children are fully included as the childminder has an understanding of special needs and takes appropriate action in the event of a concern. There is no special needs or equal opportunities policies.

Children are kind, considerate and well mannered as they share toys and take turns. The childminder positively praises them speaking in a calm manner with a gentle approach so that they feel secure. Children behave well and have so much to play with they do not display any frustration or boredom. Children know and understand the difference between right and wrong and take on some responsibility for their own behaviour. For example, they work towards the house rules of no running inside, helping to tidy away toys, be kind, listen and use manners. A detailed behaviour policy works in practice.

Children's needs are met through positive relationships between the childminder and parents. The childminder works openly and honestly with parents keeping them informed verbally about routines and care practices. Parents are aware of all organisational policies and procedures and are provided with detailed information through a notice board and a newsletter. A partnership policy aims to work closely with parents to meet individual needs. A complaint file has been developed and ensures that parents know how to make a complaint and the process involved.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's welfare is promoted as all adults in the household are vetted and suitable to be in the presence of children. The childminder has completed relevant training in childminding practice and is up to date with her first aid knowledge. She has shown commitment to further training and holds a National Vocational Qualification Level 3 and has completed various training programmes in the early years Foundation Stage. She manages a pre school setting and, therefore, children benefit from the facility each morning.

Children benefit from some very useful aspects of the organisation as they receive good support from the childminder. Space is organised creatively and effectively and children have their own playroom with lots of attractive displays, resources and equipment to meet their levels of development. The bathroom is situated off the hall area and a main lounge is used for quiet activities, reading or watching television.

Children are safe, healthy and well supported as all regulatory documentation is in place and up to date. A daily register of attendance is available, medicine and accident records are well documented and children's individual needs are recorded with emergency contact details. Parents are kept informed verbally and through notices and newsletters about routines and plans. There are organisational policies and procedures for the safe and effective management of the provision. For example, a welcome booklet for parents, health and safety procedures, behaviour management policy and a partnership with parents statement.

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 agreed to keep a record of fire drills. She now records any fire drills and includes the date, numbers of children and any other comments. Children's safety has now been enhanced.

Complaints since the last inspection

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since 1 April 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 statement for the inclusion of children with special needs and an equal opportunities statement.

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