



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	304329
Inspection date	05 December 2006
Inspector	Sylvia Cornock
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 satisfactory. 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 1993. She lives with her husband and three children; aged eight and two adults, in a house in Wheelock, Sandbach, Cheshire. The whole of the house, except for the front lounge, of the childminders house is used for childminding. There is a secure garden for outside play.

She is registered to provide care for a maximum of five children under eight years; and is currently minding two children under five years on three full days and two children after school on two afternoons. The family have a dog and two cats.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrates an understanding of appropriate health and hygiene procedures and keeps all areas of the house clean and tidy. She is especially aware of the health issues which come with pets and ensures that the dog and cat's food and water are kept separately in the kitchen, away from minded children.

Children are learning to understand some simple health and hygiene practices because the childminder encourages them to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet. Older children's independence is promoted as they do things for themselves, such as personal hygiene.

Children enjoy physical activities as they go for walks in the local community including the local park, which give children the opportunity to use the large climbing and balancing apparatus.

Children's health and well-being is promoted as the required documentation and procedures are in place for the recording of medication administered, accidents and incidents. The childminder ensures that parents are aware of her policy regarding sick or infectious children.

Children are sufficiently well nourished, as the childminder provides healthy snacks and lunches with a choice of fruit and yoghurts for dessert. Drinks are freely available at all times, further promoting their good health and development. The childminder ensures that dietary requirements are known and met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and secure environment, with children's toys accessible. The available space is used appropriately as they play on the floor, sit on the sofa or enjoy art and craft activities at the table. The rear garden is secure and safe for children's outdoor play.

Children use an adequate range of suitable and safe equipment because the childminder regularly adds to and disposes of resources. Toys and games are mostly organised into storage boxes and shelves within the room and children know where things are as they access and freely choose toys and materials.

Children are safe as they move around the setting because the childminder is vigilant and supervises children at all times. Sensible use of safety gates is made to restrict access to the kitchen. Children are also generally safe in an emergency because first aid supplies, smoke detectors and a fire blanket are in place. The childminder is familiar with all the escape routes and evacuation practices with the children have been undertaken, this promotes children's safety.

Children are safe when taken on outings because the childminder keeps hold of children as they walk to school and other places. She encourages children to learn how to keep themselves

safe outside through discussion. However, the childminder is not fully secure in her knowledge of the procedures to follow for reporting any concerns or if an allegation is made against her or others regarding child protection. This compromises children's safety and well-being.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled due to the positive interaction of the childminder. They respond well and quickly develop confidence and self-esteem because the childminder encourages them in their play and praises their successes. Children show interest in what they do because the childminder joins in with their play and helps them to gain from it. For example, she allows them to use their imagination and create their own ideas from the selection of art and craft materials provided. She is on hand when children ask for assistance, and quickly responds as she helps a five year old with her creation. Children are enthusiastic and can enjoy a variety of games and activities because the childminder organises this well. At the same time, she provides children with plenty of choices enabling them to play with what they choose. Younger children and babies have fun as they engage in painting hand prints giving them the experience of touch and feeling.

Children's enjoyment and educational achievements are good because the childminder works comfortably alongside older children to meet their individual learning needs. She helps them to succeed in developing their learning through the provision of planned activities and experiences, such as the environment we live in as they take walks and discuss the scenery.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children have a strong sense of belonging and are included fully in play. Their emotional needs are adequately met because the childminder is caring and attentive to each child. She treats all children with equal concern and takes into account their home situations which she knows well. The childminder showed a reasonable understanding of caring for children with additional needs. She gives children one to one care and devotes her time to them. For example, she is aware of their attention span and ensures there is sufficient enjoyable activities to keep their interest.

Children's awareness of diversity is promoted through activities, books, toys and other resources which portray positive images of people from other cultures and of gender equality. This means that children are learning how to be understanding and accepting of all others.

Children receive appropriate support to behave well, because the childminder encourages manners, such as 'please' and 'thank you'. She uses praise to good effect, so that children are happy that she is pleased with them. The childminder has relevant documentation for the recording of incidents, although none are recorded as children's behaviour is good.

Children receive consistency of care because the childminder works together with parents to ensure that they are well informed about what is going on in the children's lives. The childminder

and parents have a very good understanding and partnership as they share on a daily basis the child's day.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced through the childminder's organisation and well-planned day. This helps children to feel at home and at ease; they feel secure and confident in their surroundings, initiating and extending their own play and learning. Visits to places of interest widens children's play opportunities and helps them to make progress.

All documentation, policies and procedures are satisfactory, although the procedure for recording children's attendance is not secure as it is recorded on a calendar with loose pages and does not record times of arrival and departure. This compromises children's safety. Also, the childminder's first aid certificate has expired and not been renewed. This therefore, constitutes a breach in regulation and as a result adversely effects the children's welfare.

The childminder is confident, and her care and enthusiasm helps to support children's progress and development. Children benefit from the available indoor and outdoor space to maximise play opportunities. Satisfactory risk assessments and planning of activities and routines help to keep children safe and enables them to make progress in all areas of their development.

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 devise and implement a system to record any incident of physical or significant issues and to share these with parents. The childminder has introduced a system where any issues are recorded and shared with parents. She was also asked to obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children. The childminder has devised medication forms which ask parents for permission before administering medication. These measures promote children's safety and well-being.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since the last inspection 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 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 satisfactory. 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):

- update knowledge and understanding of the procedure to follow in relation to child protection
- ensure that the daily recording of children's attendance is secure and is accurate
- ensure a first aid course which includes training in first aid for infants and young children is completed.

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