



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	315149
Inspection date	14 December 2006
Inspector	Sheila Iwaskow
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 was registered in 2000. She lives with her husband and family friend in a house in Warrington, Cheshire. The childminder's adult children are at university and come home on a regular basis. The town centre, schools and parks are within walking distance.

The toy room, computer room, playroom, living room and kitchen are used for childminding purposes. Toilet facilities are available on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed area available for outside play.

There are currently five children on the roll, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder also cares for older children and supports those who have learning difficulties and disabilities. The family have two cats, a rat and a dog

She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is a support childminder.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are well protected from the risk of cross infection. The childminder maintains good levels of cleanliness across her home and implements hygienic nappy changing routines. Particular attention is taken with regard to the family pets and the childminder understands that it is her responsibility to ensure that they are safe to be in the proximity of children and do not pose a risk to their health. Children are encouraged to adopt good hygiene practices, such as washing their hands at appropriate times of the day, and to take responsibility for their own personal care as they proudly achieve success at potty training. The childminder talks to the children about germs, helping them to understand the underlying concepts of hygiene routines. Records relating to healthcare matters are maintained in a good order. A clear, written sick child policy ensures that the best interests of the children are taken into account. Young children's needs with regard to meals and sleep times are met, providing an environment that is consistent with home. Comfortable furnishings, within the childminder's home, also provide for children's rest and relaxation.

Effective systems are in place to record children's health and dietary needs, which are considered when planning menus. The childminder is a vegan and with the agreement of parents provides children with a range of well-balanced meals, which reflect her lifestyle. Snacks include a variety of fruits, breadsticks and raisins. Good emphasis is given to children drinking liquids, which are accessible to them at all times in age-appropriate beakers. Good manners are promoted and mealtimes are relaxed occasions where everyone sits together and chats.

Children enjoy a range of activities to contribute to a healthy lifestyle. They walk to the park and the shops to exercise their bodies and help keep them fit. Playing in the attractive outdoor play area provides opportunities for children to develop their physical skills as they ride on wheeled toys and run around in the fresh air. A range of equipment is also available indoors, such as a ball pool, to further develop children's physical skills.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into a bright and stimulating environment, where examples of children's artwork and a wide variety of educational posters are attractively displayed in all areas of the house used for childminding purposes. Rooms are linked together so that children can move around freely and make decisions about where they want to play. Children enjoy an extensive range of good quality toys and equipment which meet the needs of the children who attend and support their learning well. They gain pleasure from selecting toys that appeal to their interests. Resources are safe and stored at child height to encourage children to make choices and develop their independence. A large blackboard is mounted to the wall, which successfully promotes children's writing skills.

Children are well supervised. The childminder follows young children as they wander between rooms to ensure their safety. Gates are in place to make sure that children do not access areas

of the house not included in the registration. The childminder is aware of how to get out of the house in the event of a fire and fire drills are practised and discussed with the children, teaching them to follow defined procedures in the event of an emergency evacuation. Children learn about safety when they are out walking in the local area. They are encouraged to act responsibly as they hold hands and stay close to each other as they walk along the pavement. However, an issue in the outdoor play area which may pose a risk to children's safety has been identified; a large patch of ivy is accessible to the children.

Children are very well protected because the childminder is aware of her responsibilities regarding child protection and of the action to be taken in the event of identifying a concern. A child protection policy is in place and shared with parents.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy, confident and settled in the childminder's home. They develop warm and trusting relationships with the childminder and freely climb on to her knee to give her a cuddle if they are tired or sad.

All children are purposefully engaged in a broad range of activities, which they clearly enjoy. The childminder spends lots of time interacting, talking and listening to the children. Young children confidently follow simple instructions and open the curtains when requested to do by the childminder. Good emphasis is placed on children to learn to count, recognise colours and identify letters of the alphabet. Problem solving skills are developed as children complete jigsaws, using the picture on the box to help find the pieces that fit correctly together. Role play in a variety of situations allows children to develop their own ideas whilst having fun as they make cakes, go to the shops and dress up using bags, hats and blankets provided by the childminder. Regular story telling promotes children's enjoyment of books. Children enjoy different sensory experiences as they practise their mark making skills with chalk, manipulate play dough and wade through the leaves when out walking. From an early age children develop an awareness of computer technology. Young children happily sit at the computer and with increasing control use the keyboard and the mouse.

The childminder has a clear understanding of what the children know and can do and ensures that the play experiences provided build on and extend their learning. Simple explanations provided by the childminder, such as sit on the chair properly, teach children about right from wrong. The childminder has accessed training on the 'Birth to three matters' framework and successfully implements many of its components into her childminding practice. Information on this curriculum is clearly displayed for parents, allowing them to become fully involved in their children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are valued as individuals and their needs well met. A good range of resources, such as multicultural posters, books and jigsaws, are available to increase children's awareness of

diversity. Children also learn about the wider world as they take part in activities linked to cultural festivals, such as Chinese New Year and Hanukkah. Discussions about similarities and differences within society further broaden their awareness of the world around them. Girls and boys freely access activities of their choice and any anti-discriminatory remarks are challenged and dealt with appropriately. Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are well supported. The childminder is committed to providing an inclusive environment and working closely with parents to ensure that the best possible care is offered.

Parents are made aware of the management of children's behaviour through discussion and the childminder's policy document. Children are very well behaved. The childminder acts as a positive role model and encourages children to be kind and respectful to adults and their peers. All children are treated with individual care and respect. Children's efforts are constantly praised by the childminder, which helps to boost their confidence and self-esteem.

Children benefit from the positive relationships that the childminder has developed with their parents. A booklet is made available to parents, which clearly outlines the childminder's policies and procedures. Written and verbal feedback at the end of the day keeps parents fully informed of all aspects of their children's day and their achievements. Effective procedures are in place to record any concerns or complaints expressed by parents, in line with recent changes to the National Standards.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for in a positive and supportive environment, which helps them feel self-assured and at ease. Space is well organised to ensure that children experience activities which incorporate all areas of their learning. The childminder makes good use of her time, offering children a structured day which includes a good balance of rest, learning and play. Settling-in procedures are implemented to ensure that new children are happy and secure in the childminder's care.

The childminder complies with her conditions of registration at all times and keeps Ofsted informed of relevant matters in line with regulatory requirements. She demonstrates a positive attitude towards ongoing professional development and has attended a number of courses including child protection and disability discrimination awareness.

All aspects of documentation are in place and organised to respect confidentiality.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

After the last inspection the provider agreed to address matters regarding safety and documentation. All of these issues have now been dealt with. Written permission is now in place from parents to administer medication, and parents' emergency contact details and doctors' addresses and telephone numbers are now recorded. The contact number for Ofsted is clearly displayed and smoke alarms are available on all floors of the house.

These improvements ensure that all aspects of documentation are in place, that children are cared for in a safer environment and that parents are made aware of the regulator's telephone number if they wish to make contact with Ofsted.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 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 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):

- conduct a risk assessment on the ivy in the outdoor play area.

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