



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314786
Inspection date	16 May 2005
Inspector	Joan Isabel Madden

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 1999. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 12 years and 8 years. They live in a house in Croft, Warrington within walking distance of schools, pre-schools and a park. The nearest shops are in Birchwood and Culcheth. The living room, garden room, the kitchen and the downstairs toilet are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have a pet cat.

There are eight school-aged children on roll who attend on a part-time basis during

term time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean and welcoming environment where high priority is put upon good hygiene both around the home and amongst the children. They know to wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the day. Comprehensive recording of any medical conditions and dietary needs ensures the children receive any relevant care relating to their condition. Effective procedures to deal with medical emergencies are in place in the event of a child needing treatment.

High priority is put upon the children being outdoors in the fresh air. They make good use of the large enclosed garden with exciting apparatus that includes a large and challenging climbing frame and a trampoline. They also use smaller apparatus, such as, pogo sticks and scooters to develop their balancing skills and take part in ball games to develop their hand eye coordination skills. The children also enjoy trips to the local park where they further develop their physical skills on a range of play equipment.

Children look forward to a sensible snack of biscuits and fruit on their return from school. They have orange juice to drink but fresh water is not sufficiently promoted.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children feel welcome and secure in the very organised and tidy house. They relax after school in the large, pleasant, sitting room with very comfortable furniture. They are able to choose from a highly appropriate balanced range of toys and materials for school age children. The tabletop games, such as, Monopoly and Jenga offer them suitable challenges and they also enjoy games that promote their hand eye coordination, such as, snooker and table football. Weather permitting the children make good use of the large garden with a challenging range of apparatus.

Children are cared for in a safe environment. No safety issues have been identified. Precautionary measures are still taken to ensure the children's safety, such as, hazardous materials and sharp objects being out of their reach. The children follow sensible rules to promote their own safety, for example, only one child at a time is allowed on the large trampoline and only children over eight years are able to play at the front of the house.

Children are well protected as the childminder is fully aware of her duties towards child protection and has a good knowledge of how to follow procedures from the comprehensive documentation on child protection. She is able to recognise signs of abuse and knows whom to contact if she is concerned about a child.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The school aged children are happy and relaxed. They have a good relationship with their childminder and there is a mutual respect between them. The children are familiar with the routine and choose from a highly appropriate range of toys and equipment that offer them stimulating challenges, thereby, successfully promoting their development. The resources are readily accessible helping to promote the children's independence and self-esteem. They understand the reasons for selective television viewing and enjoy their chosen programmes, such as, 'My parents are aliens' helping them to make informed decisions. At other times they play constructively with one another as they are able to negotiate turn taking and rules. If appropriate the children purposely complete their homework in the quiet of the kitchen once snack is over. Throughout the year they have meaningful opportunities to make cards and other creations for traditional events around the world, such as, Valentine's day, Diwali, and Christmas.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The children are developing an understanding that people have different needs, views, cultures and beliefs that need to be treated with respect. There are resources that reflect the wider world, in particular, books, games and role-play materials helping to promote a positive attitude. They are encouraged to be sensitive towards people with special needs when the situation arises. The children's individual needs are taken into account as the childminder ensures she gains any relevant information from the parents that needs to be taken into account when caring for the children. She is sensitive to any fears the children have, for instance, one child is wary of the cat. Both the childminder's own children and minded child have equal access to the wide range of resources.

The children are very well behaved, responding well to the childminder's positive use of language and her reasoned and calm approach. They co-operatively follow a well established routine that is flexible allowing them a wide choice of activities. The children get on well and understand the need to share, take turns and establish rules in games. They are encouraged to respect the environment and equipment, for example, to cover trampoline after use and tidy toys away.

The parents speak highly of the provision and are delighted with the care their children receive. There is a good exchange of information between parents and childminder helping to promote consistency and security in the children's lives

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children relax in a secure environment and are able to initiate and extend their

own play and learning. The space available to children is used effectively to allow them to play together both indoors and outdoors or if they choose to complete homework or work quietly in a different room. All resources are easily accessible and stored in an orderly way enabling children to play independently. All the required documentation is maintained helping to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was required to improve safety, documentation, activities and resources. Additionally, she was to complete appropriate training in first aid.

All required documentation is now in place helping to promote the welfare, care and learning of children.

Safety has improved as childminder confirms that she is the only person who supervises the children. Additionally, the fire is not used during childminding hours.

The childminder completed an appropriate first aid course in 2003 ensuring she can safely administer first aid to children.

Since the last inspection the children are developing an understanding that people have different needs, views, cultures and should be treated with respect. There are more resources that reflect the wider world. Creative materials are now available to the children and they make good use of these.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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.
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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):

- Promote fresh drinking water at all times.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk