



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	502609
Inspection date	22 February 2007
Inspector	Chris Scully
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 was registered in 2001. She lives with her two children aged eight and 11 years in Great Sankey on the outskirts of Warrington. The whole of the ground floor is available to minded children. There is a fully enclosed rear garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years. She is currently providing care for one child under five years and two children over five years before and after school. The childminder takes and collects children from local schools. She attends toddler groups and takes children to the park and other places of interest. The family have a cat.

The childminder is able to support children who have learning difficulties or disabilities. The childminder receives support from Sure Start.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a warm and clean environment. They learn the importance of good hygiene practices through discussions with the childminder and practical experiences. Children are confident to inform visitors about how they wash their hands after going to the bathroom. Older children are confident to see to their own personal needs, such as going to the bathroom. Appropriate support and guidance is provided to younger children, which enables them to develop independence skills. Children are aware to wash their hands after touching the cat.

Children's accidents or incidents are dealt with appropriately. However, the childminder does not have a current first aid certificate. A verbal sick children policy is in place and parents are contacted should a child become unwell whilst in the childminder's care. However, this does not include the exclusion timescales for some infectious illnesses, which does not effectively minimise the risk of cross infection. Children's larger physical skills are developing well. They have ample opportunities to test and explore their skills whilst playing outdoors. The childminder states the children particularly enjoy playing hop scotch, skipping, football and marbles. Children are confident to use small resources; such as pencils, jigsaws and the nets to catch objects when using flying elephant game.

Children's dietary needs are met well. Parents have the option of providing their own meals and snacks for the children. All of which are appropriately stored and reheated by the childminder. Meals and snacks provided by the childminder are generally healthy and nutritious. Children are offered home made lasagne, sandwiches, salads and plenty of fresh fruit. All children are encouraged to sit at the table at meal times in order to promote a relaxed social occasion. Children are able to independently access a range of drinks and fresh drinking water in order to keep themselves refreshed.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for within a warm, welcoming environment. They are confident to choose where to play and to select their own resources. The play room is well organised and there are several examples of children's art work displayed around the room. This successfully fosters the children's esteem and sense of belonging. Children have access to a wide range of resources which are appropriate for their ages and stages of development and are clean and safe. There are some resources depicting diversity, however, this is limited with regards to positive images of disability and gender.

Most risks have been identified and minimised by the childminder. Regular checks are carried out to ensure the areas and resources used by the children remain safe. Appropriate fire detection equipment is in place. However, the childminder has not formalised the emergency escape plan and has not practised this with the children. This hinders their ability to evacuate quickly in an emergency. Appropriate systems are in place for taking children on outings and to be transported in a vehicle. The children learn to keep themselves safe through practical

activities and discussions with the childminder. They are aware to hold the banister as they go upstairs and inform the childminder that this is because they do not want to fall. Children learn to keep themselves safe outdoors as the childminder talks to them about road safety and stranger danger.

The childminder has a sound understanding of child protection. She uses information from the booklet, 'What To Do If You Are Worried A Child Is Being Abused - Summary' to inform her practice. The childminder is familiar with the referral systems should she have a concern about a child. This means children are protected from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are happy and relaxed in the childminder's care. This is supported by the warm caring relationships the childminder builds with the children. This enables them to feel safe and confident in her care. The childminder spends considerable amounts of time talking, playing and interacting with the children, which successfully fosters their all round development. Children are engaged in a wide range of purposeful play and learning experiences. This is supported by the childminder's understanding of their individual needs.

The childminder is skilled at asking open-ended questions, which enable the children to think, communicate and solve simple problems. One child asks her to draw an elephant, the childminder talks to the child about the elephant and his trunk. She then draws another picture of 'something else that has a trunk,' and asks the child do they know what it is. After a few moments they shout in glee 'It's a tree'. The childminder provides an appropriate explanation for the use of these words. This effective use of questioning and descriptive language enables the child to expand their vocabulary, understanding and to look at the different meanings of words. Children are confident to sound out letters when using alphabet jigsaws and confidently explain it is 'n for nest.'

The childminder has a sound understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework and provides an appropriate range of activities and learning experiences for children under three years. Children are confident to sing a range of songs and enjoy using the microphone. One child happily sits on the childminder's knee singing 'pat-a-cake' and 'the wheels on the bus'. They are keen to listen to their favourite stories, such as 'Handa's Surprise' and confidently act out the story using the puppets. Children's imagination is developing well; they confidently create scenarios when using the train set. They eagerly describe their trip through the forest and what animals they can see. Younger children's counting skills are developing well. They are able to count a number of objects with support from the childminder.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a sound understanding of the children's individual needs and preferences. This enables her to provide appropriate care and support. All children are treated with respect and are fully included in all of the activities provided. Children learn about the wider world

through discussions and planned activities with the childminder. They are keen to talk about making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and how they had to blow them hard as they were hot. The children learn about their local community as they walk to and from school and visit local places of interest.

The children are well behaved. They respond well to the childminder's requests and are generally respectful of one another. Children use appropriate manners, such as please and thank you, although on occasion they require a gentle reminder from the childminder. Clear rules and boundaries enable the children to feel secure and to understand what is expected of them. Age appropriate explanations as to why they are behaving inappropriately enables the children to think about their actions and the potential consequences.

The childminder has a positive relationship with the parents of minded children. Policies are not formalised, but are shared verbally with the parents. Consents are in place, which means children are cared for in line with their parents wishes. The childminder demonstrates an understanding of how to handle parents concerns and the need to respond to these within the set timescales. The childminder discusses the children's progress and achievements with their parents on a daily basis. This ensure the parents are kept fully informed about their child's day and development.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children receive good levels of support from the childminder, which enables them to make links in the learning and promotes their all round development. The childminder has a sound understanding of the children's individual needs and meets these well in practice. Rooms are used well to provide a wide range of interesting activities and learning experiences.

Policies and procedures, which contribute to the children's health safety and well-being are in place. However, these are not formalised, but are shared verbally with the parents. The childminder does not have a current first aid certificate. This is a breach of the National Standards. Children's attendance, accident and medication records are appropriately maintained.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

Following the last inspection, one action and three recommendations were made. The action regarding children's attendance records has been fully met. Children's attendance is now recorded on a daily basis. In relation to the recommendations the childminder has addressed the safety issues within the rear garden. She has removed the poisonous plants and the drains are now appropriately covered. A sick children policy has been devised and is shared with the parents. Consent is in place for the children to be transported in a vehicle. In addressing these issues the childminder has improved upon the health, safety and well-being of the children.

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 complaint 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):

- complete a first aid course, which includes training in first aid for infants and young children and ensure this is maintained
- devise and practise an emergency escape plan
- formalise all of the required policies and procedures and share these with the parents.

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