



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314939
Inspection date	27 April 2005
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 1999. She lives with her son aged 12 years in Lymm, an area south of Warrington.

The whole of the house is used for childminding purposes; this comprises of lounge, playroom, bedroom toilet and kitchen. Older children have access to a bedroom on the first floor. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

There are currently 17 children on roll who attend on variety of placements. The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

The childminder takes and collects children from schools in the local area. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a range of activities which contribute to their good health. They have the opportunity to develop control of their bodies, for example, young babies who can sit are encouraged to reach for toys, developing coordination and balance. A good selection of outdoor play equipment and regular visits to the park foster toddler's and older children's physical development.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they are beginning to learn about good hygiene habits such as washing their hands at appropriate times of the day. The childminder implements effective hygiene procedures that minimise the risks to children of cross infection.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of a healthy diet. Meals provided are well balanced and nutritious, supporting children's physical well being and development. Children's dietary needs are recorded and respected at all times, ensuring that children's individual needs are met.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in well maintained home where the childminder prioritises safety. All reasonable steps have been taken by the childminder to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and secure environment; children are able to move around freely and confidently. Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains boundaries, for example, explaining to the children that they must not run in the house in case they fall and hurt themselves or speak to strangers.

Toys and resources are varied, suitable and easily accessible, allowing older children to make choices and develop their independence. The childminder monitors children's choices of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their stage of development.

The childminder has the required documentation in place to ensure children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted. For example, she has a valid first aid certificate and a good understanding of child protection issues and procedures, although existing injuries are not recorded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children share warm relationships with the childminder. She spends time on the floor talking and playing with them. She offers children appropriate physical contact in the form of cuddles, speaks in gentle tones and smiles; as a result the children are happy confident and secure in her care

The childminder utilises local amenities to provide different play environments for the children, increasing their awareness of the world around them. The opportunity for children to socialise is provided by regular visits to the local toddler group where children can play and learn alongside other children.

Children are engaged in a range of age appropriate activities which they clearly enjoy. They benefit from routines which are consistent with their experiences at home. The childminder fosters early communication skills by responding to the young child's babbling and reinforcing speech patterns by repeating words for older children. Children's mathematical skills are enhanced through daily activities such as choosing the correct coloured drinking cup from a selection on offer and discussing the size and shape of familiar objects.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children learn about the wider community through discussions and the range of resources available that reflect our diverse society. This helps children to become aware of differences and develop a positive attitude towards others. The childminder shows due regard towards special needs and works in close liaison with parents to ensure their needs are fully met.

Children benefit from the positive relationships that the childminder has developed with parents. A notice board, a daily diary and informal discussions at the end of the day keep parents informed about the provision and their children's activities.

Children behave well and respond to the boundaries set by the childminder. Minor altercations are dealt with in a calm and sensitive manner; for example the childminder explains quietly to two young children why it is important to share their toys. Children's efforts and achievements are celebrated, promoting their confidence and self esteem.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's organisation, children feel at home and at ease in a well arranged environment. Most records and documentation are in place and of a good standard which contributes to the continuity of care for the children.

The childminder is committed to improving the quality of care that she provides for

the children and to support her professional development; she has completed a number of courses relevant to her childcare practice. She ensures that the children have sufficient space in order to play in comfort and organises her resources to promote children's independence, encouraging them to make choices about their play and learning. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to provide opportunities for the children to engage in creative and experimental play, maintain records of babies' daily routines and to obtain written parental consent to transport children by car.

All of these issues have now been addressed. The childminder has obtained written parental agreement to transport children by car and has a diary for each baby, which details feeds, nappy changes and any other relevant issues. A range of play materials are now available which supports children's creative development.

These improvements ensure that all aspects of documentation are up to date and that the resources available encompass all aspects of children's play.

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):

- seek written parental consent for emergency medical treatment
- ensure that existing injuries are recorded.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet <i>Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements</i> which is available from Ofsted's website:
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