

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY224266
Inspection date	28 January 2008
Inspector	Sandra Elizabeth Williams
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 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged six and two years in Ulverston, Cumbria. The whole of the childminder's house is used for childminding apart from her bedroom, her eldest son's bedroom and the study. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding two children aged four and six years. The childminder lives close to local schools, shops, park and other amenities. The family has a pet rabbit. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the Childminding Network.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, warm, homely environment where the childminder promotes the health and welfare of the children. They are encouraged to develop a good understanding of hygiene and personal care as they independently wash their hands after using the toilet and

before baking. Good procedures are in place to meet the health needs of children by the use of medication and accident records. The childminder has a first aid kit and has undertaken a first aid course. There are good procedures in place that minimise the risk to children of cross-infection, such as a sick child policy.

Children have many opportunities to enjoy fresh air and exercise during their outings to the nearby park. They also enjoy very much trips to the local swimming pool where they develop their swimming skills. They also enjoy playing in the garden where they have a wide choice of activities, such as ride-on toys, a slide, a trampoline and swings. Children are very well-nourished and are learning about healthy eating because the childminder encourages them to eat nutritious fresh food, such as fruit and vegetables. The children enjoy nutritious homemade meals, such as soup made with lots of different vegetables. Good procedures are in place to ensure that any information regarding children's individual dietary needs are known.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children stay safe because they are cared for in a safe and secure environment, which has been well organised with all the safety requirements in place. Children are able to move about and explore with confidence as the childminder has made sure that there are no hazards or risks to their safety and well-being. Children benefit from a wide range of play equipment, which is age appropriate for all children attending. Children are able to easily access a wide range of toys, which enables them to safely select and choose what they would like to play with, thus developing their independence and imaginations. Children are protected from harm as the childminder checks the equipment regularly and ensures that it is maintained in good order and kept clean. Children have the opportunity to play outdoors in the secure garden, which is also very well-equipped. However, the shed has low-level glass on it which could pose a hazard to children and there is a drain without a cover, which is also a potential hazard to children.

Children are very involved in learning about their own safety and are developing a good understanding of the importance of staying safe. They learn about safety in the kitchen as they undertake a baking activity. They know that they must not touch the hot baking trays as they come out of the oven in case they burn themselves. They are kept safe as the childminder has a good understanding of fire safety procedures and has the appropriate fire safety equipment. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder demonstrates a good understanding of potential signs of abuse and neglect, and has a clear understanding of where to report any child protection issues. She knows who to contact if a child is at risk of harm and would take prompt action, thus protecting children from abuse and neglect.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy and achieve because they feel secure in their environment. They are well settled and have good relationships with the childminder and her family, which increases their sense of trust. Children benefit from the childminder's flexible planning of a range of interesting and imaginative activities, which are age appropriate. The children have many opportunities to develop their creative skills and undertake craft activities and paintings, such as decorating sun hats and making finger puppets. Their paintings and drawings are proudly displayed in the kitchen. The childminder is careful to make sure that each child's individual needs and interests are met. For example, she undertakes weekly baking activities with the children and skilfully

manages to include all of the children in the activities, despite the difference in ages. The children gain a lot from this activity, for example, they weigh the ingredients and are careful to make sure the right numbers show on the scales. They then enjoy carefully pouring the ingredients into a bowl and mix and knead the mixture before rolling it out and making individual cakes and count how many they have made. They also learn new vocabulary, such as making a 'well' in the cakes in order to put jam in them. The children also enjoy creating designs with the Hamma beads which develops their fine motor skills and patience.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children make a positive contribution and learn about their community by going on outings to the swimming pool and park. They are also encouraged to develop positive attitudes about the wider world as they have access to a range of resources that reflect different cultures, such as dolls and books. The children's individual needs are respected by the childminder and much effort is made to ensure that the parents' wishes are adhered to in order to meet the children's requirements. The childminder is very experienced at working with children and offers very good care for children. She encourages them to be caring towards one another, for example, when a child got upset, another one went to him to cheer him up.

Children understand what is expected of them and respond well to praise for good behaviour and individual achievements, for example, sharing toys and playing harmoniously together. This helps them to build their confidence and self-esteem. The childminder has a good understanding of age appropriate behaviour management methods, which the children respond well to. The childminder is calm in her approach and is very good at addressing each child's needs in a fair way. Children benefit greatly from the positive partnership that the childminder has developed with the parents. Parents' views about their children's needs are actively sought before the children start and thereafter on a regular basis. The childminder ensures that there is regular verbal feedback provided to parents regarding the children's individual development and welfare.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder's day to day management of the provision is good. Children are relaxed and settled in the childminder's care due to her thorough attention to detail. Children's play opportunities are well supported by the way that the childminder organises the premises, thus allowing children to move about easily and make choices from the excellent range of play equipment available. The childminder's vast childcare experience enhances the quality of care provided for the children. Children's needs are effectively supported through the childminder's very well organised recording systems. Records and documentation are in place and meet the required standard.

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 it was agreed that the fire blanket would be attached to the wall in the kitchen. This has been undertaken, thus making it easier to access in an emergency. It was also agreed that the written agreements with parents be updated to include all of the necessary

information. This has been undertaken, thus improving the detail of the records available regarding the care of the individual children.

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 records may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- ensure that the drain and the glass in the shed are made safe and inaccessible to children.

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