



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	308272
<b>Inspection date</b>	30 June 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Michael, David Charnley

<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	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](http://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 lives with her husband and three sons aged 12, 16 and 21 years in a semi-detached property, located within easy access of Great Harwood town centre. The facilities available for childminding include a dining room, which is a designated activity room, a lounge, a kitchen and an enclosed outdoor play area.

The family have three cats and a dog as pets. There are a total of 8 children on roll with their ages ranging from 11 months to 9 years. Children are cared for on a full and part time basis.

The childminder is a qualified Nursery Nurse and has regular contact with other local childminders. She regularly attends a local parent and toddler group with minded children.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children are protected when they are ill with the childminder taking the necessary steps in line with her sick children policy. Children stay healthy because the childminder exercises good hygiene practices that involves the use of anti bacterial sprays, washing hands as part of the nappy changing procedure. Children themselves learn about the importance of personal hygiene as they wash hands at regular intervals and help to clean the toys that they have used. Children are becoming increasingly independent as the childminder offers flexible routines, encouraging and valuing effort in the process. This involves prompting children to use the toilet properly, feeding themselves using cutlery. Children enjoy physical activity that involves regular trips out. Such experiences contribute to maintaining their good health and physique.

Children develop positive attitudes towards healthy eating because the childminder offers them a good range of nutritious foods in line with any special dietary requirements. The childminder is knowledgeable about children's food preferences which assists in the planning of snacks and meals. Children are given healthy choices of what they would like to eat or drink with jugs of juice, milk or water made available to them. Children rest and sleep according to their needs. This is achieved because the childminder appreciates the importance of a balance between active and quieter activity.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

Children's risk of accidental injury is minimised for the most part with the childminder taking the necessary precautions to keep children safe and secure on and off the premises. This includes the strategic placing of safety equipment such as stair gates, socket covers and smoke alarms. When children are taken on outings the childminder is vigilant in ensuring that they are harnessed or restrained as appropriate using equipment such as wrist straps to secure them. Children learn to take responsibility for their own safety because the childminder actively educates them about road and fire safety. During outings children discover boundaries and safe limits as they hold hands and choose to walk ahead if they wish to the next lamp post as long as the childminder remains in view.

Children have the freedom of movement with ample space available that allows children to relax in comfort or take part in more active play. Children, for example are able to access the well resourced toy cupboard and play in a safe, comfortable area.

Children are able to play safely because the childminder makes available a good range of play materials and equipment that are of good quality and condition.

### **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children prosper in an environment that offers them a good balance of free play and structured activity with much emphasis on allowing them to choose and make decisions about their play. The childminder uses her sound knowledge and experience of early years child care to plan a stimulating range of activities that cover many aspects of learning, geared towards meeting the needs of children of varying ages and abilities. Children, for example enjoy the good range of arts and crafts on offer. The experience of using paints, chalks and different textured materials such as playdoh and sand gives them the opportunity to develop their manipulative and creative skills. Other activities enjoyed include outdoor play and trips out to the countryside which sometimes involves collecting conkers and exploring the different colours and shapes of leaves. Children hence build on their natural curiosity as learners.

Children develop good self esteem because the childminder dedicates time listening and valuing what children say. The childminder gives much emphasis in promoting their language and mathematical development. Children progress in these areas because the childminder asks thought provoking questions to make them think, for example during a visit to the bakery children determine which loaf is the biggest as they compare size. Children learn what items of clothing keep them warm in cold weather. Children talk about features in the local community as they observe the different coloured cars and the aeroplane flying above them. Children make positive relationships with the childminder because she gives excellent levels of care and attention coupled with the show of warmth and affection. Children are hence happy, settled and comfortable in their surroundings.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children are able to make a positive contribution because the childminder treats each with equal concern and values their individuality. Children are able to choose freely from the good range of accessible resources available, hence promoting well their ability to be independent. Children have their individual needs met well since the childminder liaises closely with parents and keeps them informed. Parents are highly satisfied with the levels of care afforded to their children and comment on the good progress they have made. Although there are no current issues the childminder has some awareness of what to do in the event of identifying a child with a special need.

Children develop a growing awareness of the immediate and wider society since they engage in topical discussions via books and sample different foods from other countries. Younger children are taken regularly to the local toddler group, hence develop the ability to mix with others from different backgrounds. Children learn to

behave according to the boundaries set because the childminder acts as a good role model and gives positive strokes for their achievements and caring attitude towards others. Children learn to take responsibility for their own behaviour such as helping to tidy up and sharing toys during their play. This is again practice that the childminder recognises and praises resulting in a greater levels of self esteem and confidence.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home in an environment that encourages their independence and ability to make choices. This is well achieved because the childminder pays good attention to organising her time, space and resources. The rotation of play materials and equipment, for example serves as a good means of maintaining the interest levels of the children.

The childminder has a good understanding of the duty to keep Ofsted informed of significant changes. The required documentation is up to date with good organisational policies and procedures contributing to the safe and efficient management of the provision. Children benefit in various areas of their learning because the childminder has regard for children's well being. She therefore plans activities accordingly with their future progress and development in mind. The provision overall meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder agreed to up date her documentation and record the dates of when fire practices within the home take place. The childminder now implements this with regular fire practices taking place, thus improving upon the recording mechanisms for keeping children safe on the premises.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report since 1st April 2004.

## **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):

- enhance the safety of children when accessing the garden area by minimising potential hazards that relate to the presence of an adult push bike and barbecue
- build upon understanding and knowledge of what to do in the event of identifying a child with a special need

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)