

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314844
Inspection date	18 December 2007
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 1996. She lives with her husband and three sons aged 17, 16 and eight years in Woolston, Warrington within walking distance of shops, parks and preschools and schools. The childminder's mother also lives with the family. The whole of the ground floor except the self contained extension is used for childminding; this includes a playroom, lounge and kitchen. There is a fully enclosed rear garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and there are currently four children on roll, aged from four months to seven years. Of these, two of the children attend on a full time basis and two on a part time basis.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Sensible procedures followed by the childminder protect children from illness and infection. The house is clean and organised. The childminder has successfully completed a food hygiene course helping to underpin the safe preparation of food. She follows an effective nappy changing

procedure. Children are beginning to understand simple good health and hygiene practices. They wash hands as part of the toileting routine and before handling food. Children are treated appropriately for minor injuries, as the childminder is qualified in first aid and there is a fully stocked first aid box.

Nutritious food and discussion promotes the children's good health. The childminder provides the children's food in agreement with parents. They benefit from healthy snacks that include fruit and vegetables. The children enjoy sandwiches and fruit at lunch time. All the children are provided with fresh drinking water helping them to appreciate it as a healthy way of remaining hydrated. Milk and juice is also made available to them. Childminder mixes up babies bottles in agreement with parent wishes and parents provide food during the weaning period. The childminder records the children's dietary needs, likes and dislikes to ensure their requirements are consistently met.

Daily routines include activities to help children develop physical skills, widen their boundaries, and develop a healthy life style. The garden is inviting as there is a wide range of outdoor equipment that helps the children to develop their physical skills. The children enjoy walks to the local park where they play on the large equipment. They enjoy a warm, highly supportive relationship with their childminder helping to promote their emotional well-being. Children have opportunities to sleep at times to suit them.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

During the Christmas Season children are welcomed into a very festive house with decorations both inside and outside. The space is appropriately organised to enable the children to follow a balanced routine, enabling them to relax, play and eat in comfort. Children make effective use of the dedicated playroom where there is appropriately sized furniture to encourage them to take part in a range of activities. The childminder ensures the toys are easily accessible to the children helping them to feel a sense of belonging. The range of play materials available to the children of mixed ages contribute to their learning and development in all areas. Resources are clean, safe and reasonably maintained. Children are able access the downstairs toilet helping to promote their independence skills.

In the main sensible processes are in place to keep children safe. The house and garden are secure and the kitchen is made inaccessible to children at appropriate times. Knives and the kettle are out of reach and low level cupboards are inaccessible to children at all times. The childminder has effective fire prevention measures in place with smoke alarms throughout the house, a fire blanket and extinguisher in the kitchen and an emergency exit directly from the playroom. However, safety issues have been identified with regard to the children's access to the stairs, loose wires trailing from the Christmas decorations and the children's use of the large trampoline in the garden.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is skilled in providing stimulating and challenging activities based on children's interests and their stages of development. The children respond well to the childminder who is very capable, experienced, calm and gentle. She has a good understanding of how to meet children's individual needs and how children learn helping them to challenge children and enable them to acquire new knowledge and skills. Babies are able to follow their own routine

including sleeping and eating to suit them. In between the childminder provides activities that link directly to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. The tiny babies are given the opportunity and freedom to kick as they lie on the floor between the childminder's legs. As they kick she gives them constant eye contact and verbally communications with them helping them feel safe and secure. The childminder encourages them to lift and stretch and kick against the childminder helping to promote their physical development. She has identified that the next step in their development will be to hold and explore toys and materials. The childminder copes well with the demanding routine of the nursery and school runs.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are well cared for by the childminder, who works well with parents to ensure they are included fully in the life of the setting. They have good relationships with the childminder, helping to promote their confidence. The childminder ensures she is aware of children's individual needs by liaising with parents and recording any relevant information. She spends time playing with children, helping them to learn and benefit from the activities.

The children are very well behaved. The childminder provides them with a comprehensive framework on behaviour, and as a result they are clear about her expectations in this area. The children are reminded of the rules and have the reasons for them explained.

The childminder works closely and cooperatively with parents, sharing information verbally on a daily basis. This helps to provide continuity of care for the children. She has formed a friendly but businesslike relationship with parents and provides a welcoming atmosphere.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Vetting procedures ensure children are well protected and cared for by the childminder who is conscientious, organised and has a high regard for the well-being of all children. The children feel at ease within the well organised environment. They benefit from a well planned and structured week that includes adult-led and child-initiated activities.

All the required documentation is in place and is used appropriately to underpin the sound care of the children. However some records lack detail. 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 the childminder was required to promote equality of opportunity, improve safety and her knowledge of child protection procedures. Children now have access to a range of resources and activities that reflect the wider world. They learn about different cultures and festivals, for example, Eid. The safety of the children has improved as there are now four smoke alarms in total in the house, three of which are on the ground floor. The childminder still lacks knowledge and confidence with child protection issues and this could potentially compromise the children's safety.

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 complaints 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 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):

- improve knowledge of child protection in order to be able to recognise possible signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect and know whom to contact in accordance with Local Safeguarding Children Board if concerned about a child
- improve documentation in relation to accident records, medication records, incident records and children's records
- assess the risks to children in relation to the trampoline, loose wires, children's access to the stairs and take action to minimise these.

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