

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314992
Inspection date	15 February 2008
Inspector	Nighat Ghani
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 has been registered since 1984. She lives with her husband who works as an assistant and an adult son in Lymm an area of Warrington, within walking distance of shops, parks, toddler groups, playgroups and schools. The whole of downstairs and one bedroom on the first floor are used for minded children. There is an enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to mind six children under the age of eight. Currently there are five children on roll.

The childminder attends carer and toddler groups on a regular basis and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, clean home where they stay healthy because the childminder implements good hygiene practices to prevent the spread of infection. They learn about good

personal hygiene as part of daily routines as they wash their hands after using the toilet and before meal. However, all the children share a towel to dry their hands, which increases a risk of cross infection. Records of accidents, incidents and medication are consistently completed to safeguard children's well-being. Effective procedures are followed by the childminder to protect children from illness.

Children respond well to routine and learn to enjoy nutritious food as part of a healthy lifestyle as meal and snack times are a social occasion where children sit together comfortably. Children are well nourished and their health is promoted as they are provided with a choice of healthy snacks. However, fresh drinking water is not freely accessible to children, which compromises their health.

Children enjoy a good range of physical activities on a daily basis which contributes to their good health. They develop large and small motor skills and good co-ordination as they make effective use of the stimulating outdoor equipment. For example, they have fun playing football and can easily access the bikes and push-along toys. Children benefit from regular exercise, fresh air and open space as they visit the local park on regular basis.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well maintained and homely environment that offers space for young children to explore freely and play in comfort. Positive steps are taken by the childminder to minimise the risks to children both inside and outdoors. Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe as they are aware that they have to tidy away the toys before bringing out others.

There is a wide range of accessible resources available to meet the needs of all the minded children. The childminder checks the toys and play materials are safe and suitable for children. The childminder rotates the toys regularly to ensure that the children are kept stimulated.

The childminder has sound knowledge and understanding of child protection as she has covered this in her training. All the information and contact numbers are in place. She is very aware of the procedures to follow if she suspected abuse or neglect. On entry the childminder shares her policy on child protection with all the parents so that they are aware of her responsibility to protect children in her care.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are good communicators as they confidently ask questions and eagerly chat with the childminder and each other. Children develop good self-esteem and confidence as the childminder listens and values what they say and do. They extend and practise their learning through her skilful and spontaneous questioning.

Older children benefit from planned activities, which are offered to them on a regular basis. Children play together in a well resourced role-play area, which develops their imagination. Children express themselves freely through drawing and colouring in activities. For example, a young child selects her own paper and draws a big triangle and colours it red and says, 'look it is a red hat,' and then draws a circle underneath with three dots and says, 'this is mummy with a red hat'. Children's knowledge is extended by the childminder taking them on trips. For

example, children happily talk about their bus ride to the Museum and the different animals they saw on their visit to the safari park. Younger children's language is promoted as they sit with the childminder and look through a picture book, pointing out the star fish, lobsters and crabs.

Children are very happy, settled and secure. They have good relationships with each other and the childminder as they play together and benefit from the regular support the childminder provides to enhance their learning. The childminder has attended 'Birth to Three Matters' training and has embraced this framework with great enthusiasm. She now uses this effectively in practice to promote the development of the younger children in her care and provide activities which they enjoy and benefit from.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are confident and happy in the care of their childminder. They have good relationships with the childminder, which makes them feel safe and secure in their environment. Children have access to a good range of resources that reflect positive images, which promote their awareness of diversity. However, the childminder's knowledge of different religious festivals is limited, so little emphasis is placed on celebrating festivals from other cultures. This limits opportunities for children to understand the wider world they live in.

Children are well behaved and supported by the childminder who works in consistent ways with all children ensuring that firm boundaries are in place that are understood by children of different ages. She makes sure that explanations given to children are in keeping with their level of maturity and understanding.

The childminder has good understanding of children with disabilities. Working in partnership with parents and other agencies contributes significantly to children's well-being. The childminder collates information from parents about their children's needs to ensure these are met effectively. Information about children's achievements and progress is shared verbally with parents on a regular basis, which promotes continuity of care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The children benefit from being cared for by a highly motivated and well organised childminder. She regularly attends training courses to extend her knowledge and qualifications in child care. Having recently completed training in the 'Birth to Three Matters' framework she has begun to effectively implement what she has learned in her day to day practice.

The childminder's home is a child friendly environment which is very effectively organised to meet the needs of the children and promote independent play and learning.

The childminder has written policies and procedures which work very well in practice to ensure that children have good quality care. These are shared with parents verbally and in writing, ensuring highly effective communication and partnership.

Improvements since the last inspection

There was one recommendation made at the last inspection and this was to ensure children's incoming injuries are recorded for parents to sign.

Since the last inspection the cm has implemented a system where children's incoming injuries are recorded and signed by the parents. This has enhanced children's safety and welfare.

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):

- ensure drinking water is accessible to children at all times and implement good hygiene practice in order to prevent the spread of cross infection, for example, the use of towels when drying hands
- continue to extend knowledge and understanding of different religious festivals so that children are provided with the opportunities to understand the wider world they live in.

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