

Inspection report for early years provision

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| Unique Reference Number | 403514 |
| Inspection date | 29 November 2007 |
| Inspector | Joan, Patricia Flowers |

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| 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 satisfactory. 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 2001. She lives with her husband and son aged six in a residential area of Preston in Lancashire. Children are cared for on the ground floor of the home, with toilet facilities available upstairs. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years of age at any one time. There are three children on roll whose ages are six months, two years and six years. The childminder walks to a local school to take and collect children. Minded children are taken to local parent and toddler groups and they go to the park and for walks in the local area as well as the shops and the library. The family has a pet cat. Support and training is accessed from the local authority Sure Start development team.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are clean and well maintained so children's health is protected. The childminder minimises the risk of cross infection effectively because of the good hygiene practices employed and in turn learnt by the children. Children are encouraged to cover their mouths when they

cough and they wash their hands after toilet times and before eating. Children's continuing good health is aided by the information gained from parents when they enrol their child. Children's health care is compromised however, because the childminder has not obtained parental permission to seek any necessary medical advice or treatment.

The childminder ensures that children have an appropriate balance between rest and play. They benefit from regular outdoor exercise in the garden where they have opportunities to use small bikes and push along items. Children also walk to the park and to the toddler group and school so can develop their stamina and physical strength. Babies are encouraged to reach and explore the play environment, with the childminder placing toys to encourage them to stretch, grasp and explore using all their senses. In these ways children develop healthy physical skills and gain confidence in their growing abilities to examine and handle objects as they control their bodies with increasing confidence.

Children's dietary needs are met because the childminder ensures she follows parent's wishes and maintains each child's usual eating or feeding routine. The childminder's approach of providing healthy balanced meals and snacks ensures that all children's nutritional needs are met based on individual circumstance, with any allergies or special requests from parents taken into account. The childminder's home made menu options provide favourites such as corned beef hash. Fresh, cooked and uncooked vegetables and fruit form part of the daily choices. Snacks such as toast, crumpets and fruit are offered so children are well nourished and their hunger satisfied to ensure energy levels are maintained. Drinks are available for children throughout the day freely. Young children have their own beakers, the contents of which are replenished by the childminder so that they can help themselves when they are thirsty. Consequently children are learning to recognise their own needs.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children begin to understand how to keep themselves safe when out in public places, aided by regular and on-going discussion with the childminder. They learn about road safety and they practice the emergency evacuation procedure. Children as a result develop their understanding about their own personal safety and that of others.

Children's safety and on-going protection is addressed because the childminder has a satisfactory understanding about her responsibilities for safeguarding children. She has some knowledge of indicators of abuse but does not have a copy of the Government's guidance booklet. The childminder's written child protection policy does not include the relevant contact telephone number although these are available elsewhere. Children are protected because the childminder is vigilant in her supervision of all children so they are shielded from harm and accidents can be minimised effectively.

Children are kept safe and secure within their environment and on outings because the childminder adopts a sound approach to their well-being at all times. She pays attention when children play indoors and outside by observing good practice such as keeping the front door locked and maintaining effective direct levels of supervision. The rear garden, however, is not secure because a fence panel is missing. Children's safety is thus compromised. Children feel secure and at ease in the childminder's home environment because they are cared for in homely surroundings where space is organised well. Children have access to all ground floor rooms which encourages their sense of independence. Children happily select activities from the

accessible range of toys and equipment. These items are regularly monitored by the childminder to make sure they are safe and appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have access to an interesting range of toys and play equipment in the childminder's home. These are set out so that children can help themselves, thereby providing them with choice and allowing independence and decision making skills to be developed. The childminder is skilful at arranging suitable and stimulating play and learning resources so that children's development is promoted. Babies are encouraged to develop their physical skills as they move towards what they want. They roll on the floor and reach for toys, grasping and using all their senses to explore the musical activity centre and other tactile play items. Young children enjoy taking part in the action song 'wind the bobbin up' with babies hands held to complete the actions, alongside older children who know the song well. Children are, as a consequence, stimulated well so that their early development is encouraged and promoted.

Children are confident in their relationship with the childminder because she gets to know them individually and they snuggle up to her for support or comfort if feeling upset or tired. This leads to them forming strong bonds with her, thereby promoting their emotional development and contributing to their sense of belonging and happiness. Toddlers listen and respond with interest and enjoyment when they start to develop their communication skills as their vocabulary increases. Children repeat the names of the pictures on the picture lotto game they play with the childminder as she talks and explains during the game. The childminder is sensitive to meeting children's all round developmental needs so that they can attain their potential and make progress in their learning.

Children enjoy learning about the local community and the wider world through trips to the park, shops and toddler groups. They learn about and acknowledge festivals from other cultures through art activities, most recently, Chinese New Year, when children made simple models. This broadens children's awareness and encourages their creative development. Children take part in group activities when they attend toddler groups and playing side by side in the home. Their enjoyment is fostered as they interact with other children of both similar and different ages. Their developing social skills as a result are encouraged as they learn about taking turns.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children learn to share and appreciate other people's feelings and learn to empathise and listen to each other with confidence and self-assurance. Children are encouraged to learn right from wrong because the childminder provides lots of praise and encouragement for helping to tidy up the toys or pass her things when changing babies' nappies. The positive contributions children make therefore encourages their feelings of self-worth. Because the childminder explains reasons why some behaviours are not acceptable, children come to regulate and control their own behaviour effectively with support.

Children's sense of belonging is nurtured by the family environment the childminder provides for them. This promotes their feelings of happiness and security in good measure. Children freely express themselves and have their feelings acknowledged, allowing them to be comfortable in their care environment. They openly hug the childminder and enjoy one to one play as they put the train track together.

The childminder provides some images to promote children's understanding about their own and other people's similarities and differences. She undertakes creative activities connected to other cultures and celebrations as well as traditional celebrations such as birthdays and Christmas. Children's understanding and awareness is further enhanced as they look at story books and dress up in costumes. Because the childminder takes children to places such as the library and the park, they become aware of the value of local resources and can make links to their own home experiences with family and friends as they become aware of the world they live in.

Children receive consistency in their care because the childminder develops lines of communication with parents through discussion and her brief policy document. Information about each child's day is shared verbally and in a daily diary for the youngest children. In these ways on-going continuity of care between the childminder and the home setting is supported. The changing needs of each child, as a result, are met well, although contracts have not been signed by every parent and the childminder's certificate of registration is not displayed.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The home environment is organisation so that children have space to move around freely and self-select resources. Children therefore become confident as they explore their environment. Documentation is kept to a satisfactory standard with confidentiality maintained well. Children's details and emergency contact numbers are to hand thus enabling the childminder to contact a parent if the need arose. The childminder has not however attended first aid training. This is a breach of requirements of registration.

The childminder is aware to maintain close supervision when children are in the presence of persons whose suitability is not known to her, for example, visitors to the home or when taking children out. All adult members of the home have undergone suitability checks. Children's safety is supported as a result.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection three actions and three recommendations were raised. The actions were for the childminder to attend first aid training, to make the garden secure and to obtain and maintain public liability insurance. The recommendations were for the provider to develop her knowledge of child protection issues, to provide an adequate range of resources which promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and lastly to ensure that the premises are organised to meet the needs of minded children.

During the intervening period the childminder has not fully addressed the actions imposed and further recommendations are being made. Public liability insurance is in place. The childminder has addressed the recommendations made. She has increased the amount and range of resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice and the premises are organised to meet children's needs. Knowledge and understanding about child protection issues are satisfactory. Children's care and learning have been improved as a result.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- complete a first aid training course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children
- obtain written parental permission for the seeking of any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- obtain the government's booklet 'What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - Summary' and include contact details in the child protection policy detailing social services contact telephone number
- make sure that children can play safely in the outside rear garden area and they are not able to leave unsupervised
- ensure that written agreements/contracts are signed by all parents and the certificate of registration is displayed.

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