



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	304145
Inspection date	22 August 2005
Inspector	Janice Linsdell

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 was registered in 1991. She lives with her husband and two adult children in Nantwich, Cheshire. The whole of the ground floor and upstairs bathroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and she is currently minding seven children on a part-time basis. She walks to school and pre-school to take and collect children. There are no pets kept on the premises.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a healthy environment because the childminder maintains good standards of hygiene. She encourages hand washing with the children and reminds them to place their hands over their mouth when they cough. This promotes children's health and helps to reduce the spread of infection.

Children receive a balanced range of meals and snacks following consultation with parents about their dietary needs. They have sufficient access to drinks of water and juice throughout the day so they remain refreshed and hydrated.

Children walk everywhere with the childminder. They play active games in the garden and enjoy trips to the local park. This has a positive impact on their physical development and general well-being.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are kept safe on the premises and on outings. The childminder closely supervises children to ensure their safety. Sufficient safety measures have been taken to minimise hazards to children in the home.

Children can choose from a selection of resources and play materials set out for them in the lounge, which are accessible, safe and well maintained. Toy boxes are stored safely and rotated to give children some choice in their play.

Children's welfare is safeguarded because the childminder has an awareness of child protection issues. She has access to current reference material regarding local child protection procedures, to assist her in taking appropriate action to protect children from harm.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled and benefit from warm, trusting and secure relationships with the childminder. They take part in an adequate range of activities to encourage their play and learning, such as playing with the toys, watching children's television and playing games in the garden. The childminder takes children to the shops and they enjoy a regular trip to the local café. The variety of activities provided mainly contributes to children's learning and development, however, opportunities to develop children's creative and imaginative skills are limited.

Children have access to a sufficient range of suitable resources to support their play and show some interest in what is available to them. Younger children also benefit

from attending the toddler group on a regular basis, where they can play and socialise with others of similar age.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning to value and respect each other because the childminder encourages positive attitudes and helps them to understand some of their similarities and differences through discussion. They learn about the local community as they use amenities such as shops and parks, but activities and resources to raise children's awareness of the wider world are limited.

Children learn to distinguish between right and wrong because their behaviour is well managed by the childminder. She offers relevant praise and encouragement to reinforce good behaviour and build children's confidence and self esteem.

Children benefit from sound relationships the childminder establishes with parents. A daily exchange of information helps to keep parents informed about the children's day and encourages consistency in their care. Feedback from parents is very positive about the childminder's qualities and the care she provides for children.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

Childminding arrangements are adequately organised to support children's care needs. The childminder maintains correct adult to child ratios and makes sure that space and resources are organised appropriately so that children can relax and play comfortably on the premises.

The childminder holds a current certificate in first aid to enable her to deal with children's accidents appropriately, but she has not attended any other training. Most childminding documentation to promote children's care and welfare is appropriately maintained, however, not all records are made available for inspection.

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

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection, four issues were identified as areas for improvement which related to:

clearance procedures; children's registers; procedures for administering medication and fire safety precautions in the home.

All of these actions have been addressed. The childminder's daughter has completed appropriate vetting procedures to ensure her suitability to be in contact with children. A daily diary is said to be maintained to record children's hours of attendance, but

this could not be located during the inspection. Systems have been devised to record details of medication administered to children and a smoke alarm has been fitted on the first floor. These actions have improved children's safety on the premises.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report.

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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 all records relating to childminding activities are readily accessible, well organised and available for inspection at all times
- increase children's choice and stimulation by providing a wide range of activities, which are appropriate for their stage of development and based on their individual needs.

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