

Inspection report for early years provision

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<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	316055
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 March 2008
<b>Inspector</b>	Cathleen Howarth

<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder registered in 1982. She lives in the family home in Heywood, Lancashire. Most of the childminder's house is used for childminding, and there is a fully enclosed back garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently minding seven children. Of these, two are over eight years. The provision includes before and after school care. The childminder walks to local schools to take and collect children. Transport can also be arranged. The childminder attends the local parent and toddler group and playgroup.

There is provision for children with learning difficulties and disabilities. The childminder has attained a quality assurance award through the local authority.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are sufficiently protected from infection and are appropriately taken care of if they have an accident or become ill. Relevant policies and procedures are in place, such as accident records countersigned by parents to keep them informed of their children's welfare. However, permission from parents to obtain emergency medical advice and treatment had not been obtained for one child. Children are beginning to understand simple health and hygiene practices, like washing their hands before snack and after using the toilet.

The childminder maintains good standards of hygiene and cleanliness in areas used by children to promote their good health. Children are learning about healthy lifestyles when the childminder talks to children in age-appropriate ways to encourage them to eat healthily and play outside. There is suitable provision to support children's overall physical development, and children rest and sleep according to their needs and in accordance with parents' wishes.

Children are sufficiently nourished. A light snack is provided after school, such as toast and crackers. Children who stay for lunch enjoy pizza and fresh fruit. Drinks are easily accessible for all ages. There is adequate provision for children with special dietary requirements. Food preparation procedures are sound.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The premises are safe, secure and suitable for its purpose. Areas used by children are appropriately risk assessed before they arrive. Children play with resources and equipment that are of suitable design and condition, which the childminder checks regularly for repair and replacement. Children are learning to avoid accidental injury when they help the childminder to tidy up. They are kept safe on outings when they hold the childminder's hands and road safety is consistently reinforced.

All fire safety precautions are in place, and children practise the emergency evacuation procedure to encourage them to act responsibly in the event of an emergency. The public liability insurance certificate is available for parents to view. Children are appropriately safeguarded. The childminder understands her role in child protection. She knows the procedures to follow should a concern arise.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children continuously use their initiative when they self-select resources and decide what to do. However, early stage children mostly play with manufactured toys as there are limited natural resources used to support their play, which hinders their development.

Children quickly settle to their self-chosen activity. The very young enjoy playing with the big truck on the floor and taking dolly for a walk in the buggy. They are engrossed in their play when they learn how to make the train move along the floor. They are confident to make decisions, explore and investigate, such as working out how to use the small world cash register, and making the till open. Later stage children enjoy putting jigsaws together, like the giant

clock floor puzzle. Early stage children use inset jigsaws to effectively develop hand and eye coordination. They are learning number, shape, letter and colour recognition through various interesting activities.

Children sustain interest in what they do. For example, after school children sat round the kitchen table and made story books. They are learning to share and to take turns when they select resources. They proudly show what they have made and invite adults to read the story they have written.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are fully included and involved. They are beginning to learn about human differences in the wider community, such as gender, culture and ethnicity. However, there are limited resources and activities that promote positive images of disability. There are appropriate systems in place to provide for children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Children are beginning to understand consequences to their actions. The childminder effectively explains what is right and wrong in age-appropriate ways, and good behaviour is usually affirmed. On arrival and departure relevant information is informally exchanged between the childminder and parents. Individual children's activity files are neatly maintained to show parents the progress their children have made. An appropriate complaint procedure is discussed with parents at registration, and a record has been maintained.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder demonstrated good commitment to personal professional development and has obtained a quality assurance award through the local authority. She appropriately supports children's health, safety and enjoyment by making good use of her time and by organising space and resources effectively. Three recommendations have been raised under the relevant outcomes for children to build on the progress that has been made since the last inspection.

Most of the required documentation is in place to promote children's care, welfare and learning. Additional policies and procedures are available for parents to view. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection four recommendations were raised to improve safety and the range of resources and activities to reflect diversity. The childminder has extended her range of activities and resources to help children appreciate and value each other's similarities and differences. A further recommendation has been raised to include positive images of disability. Following a visit from the fire service all fire safety precautions are now in place. A smoke detector has been fitted on the ground floor. The accident record is now fully compliant in addition to child protection procedures. These measures are now in place to enhance children's safety at the setting.

## 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):

- ensure parental permission is requested for all children, at the time of placement, to seek emergency medical advice and treatment
- extend activities and the range of natural resources used in play for the very young
- promote positive images of disability through resources and activities.

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