

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** 322695  
**Inspection date** 23 October 2007  
**Inspector** Victoria Gail Halliwell

**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](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 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 1998. She lives with her three children aged 14, 11 and six in Leigh, Lancashire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and two bedrooms on the first floor are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding six school aged children on a part time basis. The childminder generally walks to local schools to take and collect children.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

#### Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is maintained because the children are cared for in a warm clean home. The childminder implements good practices to ensure areas used for food preparation are hygienically maintained. Children are learning the importance of good personal hygiene through routine procedures and appropriate explanations from the childminder. For example, children are reminded to wash their hands so they don't spread germs. The children enjoy using hand

gel to ensure their hands are germ free before eating. The childminder is very well informed about incubation periods and infection timescales, she implements an exclusion policy to help prevent the spread of common childhood illnesses.

Children are well nourished and are developing healthy eating habits. Following a day at school children are offered fruit and a drink, if an evening meal is provided this is freshly made, for example, spaghetti bolognese. During school holidays sandwiches, salad, fruit and yoghurt are served. Children have many opportunities to be physically active which contributes to a healthy lifestyle, during school holidays the children attend planned activities of their choice, such as, cheerleading, athletics or sports sessions where they can play; football, rugby, basketball and cricket.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder creates a welcoming environment for the children. Children's play materials and resources are prominently located and many are easily accessible, so that children can help themselves. Children enter the childminder's home and move around confidently, older children make good use of the bedrooms on the first floor to complete their preferred activity. Whilst younger children utilise the childminder's dining kitchen to complete creative activities.

The childminder has a good understanding of safety within her home and has taken appropriate action to minimise any hazards. Consequently, children are able to move around and play safely. Good systems are in place to ensure primary children are safely collected from school and children are learning to keep themselves safe. They know they must walk carefully directly in front of the childminder and stop at the kerb, they automatically look both ways for oncoming traffic and wait until the childminder tells them to cross.

Children's welfare is appropriately safeguarded by the childminder who has attended relevant training and devised her own detailed guidance. The childminder is aware of the importance of recording any concerns accurately and is familiar with the procedure she must follow, if she is concerned about a child.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the childminder's care. They enter her home very confidently, discarding coats and bags and quickly become engaged in activities of their choice. The childminder is aware of the children's favourite activities and makes plans with the children so they can extend their play. For example, some children enjoy playing with fantasy fairy figures and want to make a painted backdrop, so the childminder prepares the paints and paper ready for the children to start when they arrive from school.

A broad selection of play materials, including creative resources, books and games are stored on the ground floor. Children are also familiar with the excellent range of play materials stored on the first floor and confidently request the toys they want. Very good relationships have developed between the childminder and the children who have been in her care for many years. Strong friendships have also formed with her own children, who happily share their bedroom and toys with minded children. The childminder respects children's choices, following a structured day at school, older children often organise their own activities taking turns on electronic games or playing outside on the trampoline.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued as individuals, the childminder ensures all the children in her care are able to participate in the range of activities and experiences she provides. As a result, she routinely adapts activities to meet children's individual needs, for example, lowering the basket ball post or encouraging children who are not familiar with the characters in a card game, to match the coloured background, so they can play with the other children.

The childminder consistently implements positive behaviour management strategies, as a result, children are learning right from wrong and are aware of the childminder's expectations. The childminder works to promote children's self esteem and ensures children are able to make meaningful choices whilst in her care. As a result, children are generally well behaved and understand that failure to take turns or share will result in the item being removed.

The childminder works closely with the parents of the children in her care, she promotes relaxed and informal relationships which encourage the regular exchange of information. As a result, parents are well informed about the activities the children complete. All required parental consents are obtained, although written documentation does not include the arrangements for older children who walk to the childminder's house independently, or consent for children to use the trampoline or bouncy castle. At admission, parents received details of the childminders policies and procedures. These documents have since been significantly reviewed and updated, but the revised documents have not been shared with parents.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The childminder is very committed to developing her own knowledge and understanding, so she can further improve the quality of care she provides for children and their families. She continually attends relevant training courses, for example, working in partnership with parents, dealing with challenging behaviour and promoting nutrition and oral health. Following training the childminder reviews and when appropriate revises her own practice. She is also working towards a nationally recognised early years qualification.

The childminder organises her time and resources well, as a result, children are well cared for and enjoy their time in her care. Written records are well organised in individual children's files and all required documentation is satisfactorily maintained. 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 two recommendations were raised relating to the childminder knowledge and understanding of child protection and equal opportunities. In response, the childminder has attended child protection training and devised detailed written guidance. Consequently, she can identify the possible signs and symptoms of abuse and take appropriate action to protect a child from possible harm. The childminder has also attended training which has helped her create an inclusive setting and attended training on equal opportunities and diversity. As a result, the children's care and welfare has been further enhanced.

## **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 any 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):

- share details of the reviewed policies and procedures to keep parents fully informed of the service provided
- review the written parental agreement and consents to ensure they fully reflect all aspects of the care and activities provided.

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)