

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY276080
Inspection date	21 February 2008
Inspector	Angela Rowley
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 2003. She lives with her husband and their three daughters, one aged 14 years and two of adult age. They live in a detached house in Culcheth, north of Warrington. Her home is within walking distance of shops, park land, the library and schools. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding.

The childminder provides out of school care. She collects and drops off children at the local school and nursery. At present there are 11 children on roll, of whom five are under eight years. Children attend on different days across each week.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's good health is very effectively fostered through the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Children contribute to the planning of healthy snack menu's using information obtained from

food preference questionnaires given to children and their parents and they are able to respond to their own bodies by accessing drinks from the permanently sited tray containing a water filled jug and cups. Fresh air and exercise is promoted as children walk to and from school and enjoy planned physical activities during school holidays, for example, they visit adventure play parks and go on nature walks on the local field.

The childminder adopts comprehensive procedures to ensure that children's health and medical needs are met. Children are protected from illness and infection by adopting thorough hygiene practices. They are reminded to wash hands as they see posters displayed in the bathroom. The childminder shares a clearly written sick child policy with parents. She protects children's health by regularly renewing her first aid qualification, for example, taking a small first aid kit on outings.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children play freely in a very well planned and equipped conservatory area which provides ample play space designated to childminding during working hours. The area is extremely well maintained and is made stimulating and very welcoming to children through the provision of soft furnishings, posters, children's artwork and a very good range of accessible toys. Consequently, children make independent choices regarding their play. Space is very well planned and enables children to sit comfortably on the floor when they play television games, take part in activities at the table or relax on the sofa. Some excellent ideas promote children's sense of belonging in the childminder's home as they are provided with individual belongings boxes in the hallway, have placemats made from their photographs at the table and access their individual files, for example, which store their own artwork, photographs and reward charts.

Safety is given high priority. Potential hazards within the premises have been identified and minimised using a comprehensive risk assessment, which helps keep children safe. Many excellent measures have been taken to help children understand how to keep themselves safe. They know what to do in an emergency, for example, because the childminder has both discussed and practised with them. Fire exits are marked and equipment safety in place. Outings are very well planned with safety in mind as children wear emergency contact details and the childminder has a clearly documented lost child policy.

Children are well protected because the childminder is clear about the need to ensure their welfare at all times. She has access to written information on recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse, along with contact details for the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The childminder is clear about her role in safeguarding children's welfare and knows what to do if any issues or concerns should occur.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has a very good awareness of the individual needs of the mostly school aged children she cares for. She respects their growing maturity and consequently children play a big part in the planning and organisation of the provision. They are keen to show the activity files they have produced, the timeline they helped create and the designs they made for a competition. They contribute their ideas by writing them on an ideas board, for example, one child wants everyone to join in a 'show and tell' session and displays the idea, and they use ideas from the 'what can I do today' ideas file.

Children operate very independently and are relaxed in the childminders care. They make choices from the very good and interesting range of activities on offer, for example, the childminder has made up a quiz which some of the children want to do, others play for timed sessions on the hand held television games or play creatively with toys that promote imaginative play. The childminder is very much led by children's interests. They set up an extensive 'sunlight café' for imaginative play and they go on outings, such as ten pin bowling and to nature reserves where upon their return they make bird feeders for the garden.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder knows each child very well and every child feels valued in her care, for example, every child's birthday is celebrated with a party. They are secure in her care as they follow consistent routines with which they are very familiar because they have helped make a photographic timeline which shows what comes next each day. Children play with a very good range of toys including some resources which help raise their awareness of the wider world. Some attractive books form a display of positive images that represent diversity, in particular disability and children have taken part in some activities that help raise their awareness of different cultural traditions, for example, Chinese New Year.

Expectations for children's behaviour are stated in a gentle and positive way and so all children operate confidently and are aware of right and wrong. Their behaviour is very good and they use their manners impeccably at snack time. The childminder is respectful of children's developing maturity and they enjoy being given responsibilities, such as the helper of the day. They take responsibility for their own rewards and put stickers on their charts against set objectives when they can evidence to themselves and others that they deserve one. This very effectively helps children take responsibility for their own behaviour.

Continuity of care for children is good as the childminder has developed secure relationships with parents who clearly value the quality of her service. A comprehensive range of written information including a framework for policy and practice, contractual agreements, parental questionnaires and written permissions all facilitate working in partnership.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is enhanced by the childminder's excellent organisation. They feel at home and at ease in a very well arranged environment. There is lots of space to play in comfort with resources being effectively organised to promote their independence. This encourages them to make their own choices about their play and experiences.

The childminder is committed to further improving the high quality of care she provides for the children. She evaluates her provision suitably with the use of early years publications as guidance, and she has attended some relevant short training days, although she has not yet developed a system of assessing and prioritising her training and development needs to contribute to the upkeep and further development of her provision.

All required documentation is in place. It is appropriately completed and well organised with confidentiality being respected. Additional records, such as policies and procedures clearly demonstrate how the childminder aims towards quality practice and manages her provision

effectively. The certificate of registration, along with a range of other information, is clearly displayed for parents to see.

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 the childminder was asked to increase the resources suitable for children under five years along with those which reflect positive images of disability.

The childminder has attended to both recommendations suitably. Children now access a range of books which are attractively displayed and positively represent the issues of disability and diversity. The childminder has reviewed the range of toys she had stored away and has made more available to meet the needs of the very small number of children under five that she cares for. As a result of the childminders attention to both these recommendations, the quality of children's care has been improved.

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 complaint record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

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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):

- develop systems to identify and prioritise training and development needs to ensure that knowledge remains current and children's needs continue to be met.

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