



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	314777
<b>Inspection date</b>	15 June 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Sheila Iwaskow

<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 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 2000. She lives with her husband and 3 children aged 15, 13 and 6 years in Warrington.

Minded children have access to the playroom, kitchen, conservatory, utility room and toilet. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play. The family have three rabbits.

There are currently five children on roll who attend on a variety of placements. The childminder supports children with special educational needs.

The childminder is a member of the Warrington Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They are taken on a regular basis to the park where they can run, swing and climb, helping them to gain control of their bodies. Children try out and develop new skills as they play football and explore the climbing frame in the back garden. Young children's home routines with regard to meal and sleep times are respected, providing a secure and familiar environment.

The childminder raises children awareness of personal hygiene issues by encouraging children to wash their hands before eating and after messy play. Toddlers learn as they watch older children washing their hands after going to the toilet. Children are cared for in a warm home which is spotlessly clean.

Children are provided with regular drinks and food in good supply to meet their individual needs. Meals are well balanced, healthy and nutritious and include lots of fresh fruit, fish and pasta. Food high in fat content is kept to a minimum and given occasionally as a treat. Young children develop their independence as they feed themselves at mealtimes.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children have a good sense of belonging within the setting. Examples of their work are attractively displayed, providing a bright and stimulating play environment. Children have freedom of movement with ample space available where they can relax in comfort or take part in more active and energetic play.

Children use a good range of developmentally appropriate play materials which encompass all areas of their learning. Toys are in good condition and rotated to maintain stimulation. The selection available are easily accessible to the children, allowing them to make choices and develop their independence.

Children risk of accidental injury is minimised by the childminder taking precautions to keep children secure on and off the premises. However, their safety is compromised because drains in the back garden are not covered and fire evacuation procedures are not practiced with the children. Young children are becoming increasingly aware of keeping themselves safe as the childminder explains the importance of holding on to the pram when out walking and tidying toys away.

Children are protected because the childminder has updated her knowledge and understanding of child protection by attending relevant training. Consequently, she is clear about her role and responsibilities.

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

The provision is good.

Young children confidently settle with the childminder on arrival. They enjoy each others company and discuss excitedly the range of activities that are on offer. Babies smile and babble happily in response to familiar adults and children. Children play sociably together and the childminder supports the young baby as he attempts to build a tower with the building blocks and spread glue on to the paper.

Play opportunities are used creatively to develop early mathematical skills as children stick small squares into a larger shape, draw a number of objects and identify the colours of pencils and paint pots. Children's creative explorations are well supported as the childminder encourages children to build models, cut strips of paper in a straight line and make their names with pasta. Children enjoy listening to stories, rhymes and songs as they ride on the rocking horse and share a book with the childminder.

Young children are beginning to learn that they cannot always have what they want. The childminder sensitively explains to the child why he cannot have a packet of crisps. Children chatter and giggle together in play and they are happy and relaxed with the childminder who calmly responds to their questions and comments.

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

The provision is good.

Children value each other as individuals. The childminder creates an environment where children are encouraged to be kind and respectful to each other, share and take turns. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world as they discuss similarities and differences within our society, celebrate religious festivals and taste food from other cultures. However, play materials which reflect equality are limited which hinders children's full appreciation of our diverse society. Children's individual needs are responded to in an appropriate manner and those with additional needs are cared for in inclusive environment.

Children behave well with the childminder adopting consistent strategies to manage behaviour. Minor altercations are dealt with in a calm and sensitive manner. Children's efforts and achievements are constantly celebrated, developing their confidence and self esteem.

Children benefit from the close relationship that the childminder has formed with their parents. Information is exchanged at the end of the day and each child has a detailed diary, providing written and photographic evidence of their care. These systems provide continuity and consistency of care for children and keeping parents informed. Letters from parents show a high level of appreciation for the service provided.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children share warm relationships with the childminder and are happy, confident and secure in her care. They respond positively to her discrete supervision throughout the day. Space is well organised to provide children with a wide range of activities. Children are taken to places of local interest where they can mix with other children and experience alternative play opportunities whilst having fun. There is a clear timetable in place which facilitates collecting children from local schools and nurseries.

All aspects of documentation are in place and organised to respect confidentiality. The childminder is committed to improving the quality of care she provides for children and has completed a number of relevant training courses. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

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

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to develop a registration system for the children and make the pond in the back garden safe.

Both of these issues have now been addressed. Times of children's arrival and departure are accurately recorded in her diary and the pond inaccessible to children

The improvements ensure that children are cared for in a safer environment and that all documentation relating to their care is up to date.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

## **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):

- ensure the drains in the back garden are inaccessible and practice the fire evacuation procedures with the children

- further develop resources that show positive images of race, gender and culture.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)