



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY136541
<b>Inspection date</b>	02 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Sharon Verma
<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 was registered in 2002. She lives with her husband and two children aged 4 and 13 years in Penketh, Warrington. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The family has a dog.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding 10 children aged between 8 months and 12 years, all of whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to the local school to take and collect children. She attends local toddler groups, parks, the library and other

local places of interest.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and Warrington Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children learn about the importance of good personal hygiene through their daily routine. They wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating lunch. They use anti-bacterial hand wash and understand how this can reduce the risk of cross infection. The childminder has a good understanding of how to implement hygiene practices in order to prevent the spread of infection for example, cleaning babies' equipment regularly and washing her hands after changing a nappy.

The childminder has an effective policy on sick children which ensures that they are actively protected from illness and infection. She also heeds any information provided by parents regarding allergies and dietary requirements to ensure that children's health and welfare are safeguarded.

Children's physical skills, strength and co-ordination are promoted well through daily access to outdoor play equipment in the garden as well as walks and visits to the local park. The childminder also has a selection of toys which encourage babies to develop their large muscles as they try to pull themselves up, stand and walk.

Children benefit from a good choice of healthy and nutritious snacks to promote their growth and development. Their social skills are enhanced as they are encouraged to sit down and eat together. The childminder discusses foods and the health benefits they offer with the children, which helps them to develop positive attitudes to healthy eating. Children are offered drinks throughout the day to keep them hydrated and refreshed.

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

The provision is good.

The childminder provides a welcoming and accessible environment for children. There is a good selection of age appropriate equipment, most of which is well organised to ensure children can reach it easily and make choices about their play. Children move around confidently and help themselves to toys. They also benefit from easy access to a secure garden that is well equipped with a wide variety of age appropriate resources including a slide, cars, trikes and a tunnel.

Children are cared for in an environment where risks are identified and minimised to ensure that they are kept safe. Babies and young children are protected and kept safe with adult support and know when to ask for help such as when trying to stand and walk. This enables them to quickly become skilful in a range of movements.

Children are protected from hazards associated with damaged toys and equipment through the effective system the childminder has for checking them regularly.

The childminder gives a high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe. She teaches them about road safety as part of the daily routine and talks to them about 'Stranger Danger'. Children are learning how to keep themselves safe in the event of a fire; they know how to evacuate the home in an emergency through the regular practices which the childminder organises.

Children's welfare is safeguarded through the childminder's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues.

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

The provision is good.

Children are comfortable and relaxed in the childminder's home. Babies make connections through their senses and movement. They are provided with opportunities to explore and investigate the environment and they enjoy the textures of natural materials and the colours and sounds of manufactured toys. They receive lots of cuddles and reassurance to help them settle and they develop a strong bond with the childminder which fosters their emotional well-being.

Children are achieving well because the childminder is organised and provides a wide range of planned and free play activities both inside and outside, and through outings to places such as Chester Zoo and Sherdley Park. They learn to socialise with their peers through regular attendance at toddler groups and become independent as they choose from a range of age appropriate books, toys and equipment both inside the home and in the well equipped garden.

Children are supported well and gain pleasure and confidence from the different activities on offer. The childminder's regular praise for effort and achievement is helping them to develop their self esteem and they gain a sense of self worth as they take on small roles of responsibility, such as helping to prepare snack.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routine as discussed with their parents. Relevant information is sought regarding the child's likes, dislikes, immunisations and dietary requirements to ensure their individuality is respected.

Children benefit from a very positive partnership with parents and carers. A good settling in policy helps children to be reassured and feel that they belong. Parents receive a good level of information about the provision. This includes a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to ensure they are clear about how the childminder operates and to help them make an informed choice about the care of their child. The childminder continues to share information informally with parents on a daily basis to promote continuity and consistency of care.

Children gain an understanding of their local community through trips out to places of local interest such as Walton Gardens. Their understanding of the wider world is however limited, as the childminder has insufficient resources which encourage children to develop positive attitudes to others and their differences.

Children behave well and are learning to cooperate. They receive praise and attention for example when they help tidy away equipment which enhances their self esteem and self confidence and makes them feel valued and supported. They learn about the boundaries and expectations through discussions with the childminder.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The children feel relaxed and at home. They access equipment easily and they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning.

Children benefit from the childminder's active involvement with the local childminder network which broadens the children's range of experiences. The children's care and learning is also enriched by the training which the childminder attends. She is currently enrolled on an NVQ qualification in Early Years.

Children's needs are known and supported through the childminder's good recording systems and practical use of her detailed policies and procedures. All of the required documentation which contributes to children's health, safety and well-being is in place and up-to-date.

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

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The childminder has updated her documentation to ensure that all aspects of children's health, safety and welfare are promoted.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

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. 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.
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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):

- review the organisation of equipment
- improve the range of resources that promotes equal opportunities.

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)