

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	502449
Inspection date	09 January 2008
Inspector	Debra Elizabeth Jean Dahlstrom
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 2001. She lives with her husband, and three school age children. The home in Appleton, Warrington, is within walking distance of local primary schools, playgroups, park and leisure centre. The whole of the ground floor is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for five children at any one time and six children are currently on roll. .

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The childminder places great emphasis on the importance of exercise for children particularly outdoors. She believes strongly that exercise improves not only children's physical but also their emotional well-being. Visits to local parks giving children large spaces to run, or play in the garden with footballs and tricycles means they have good opportunity to 'let off steam' and develop large motor skills.

Children benefit from regular routines to promote their good health. The childminder supports children well. She helps them gain an understanding of basic hygiene and a desire to become increasingly independent with their personal care. Whilst younger children are developing their awareness of hand washing as part of the daily routines, older children know about the significance of germs and keeping hands clean.

The childminder is very aware of the effects of dehydration on children's bodies. Therefore, children are given ample fluids as drinks are readily available throughout the short time they are with the childminder. There is a choice of diluted low sugar juice or water. Hot and cold snacks, such as fresh fruit, crumpets or buttered toast are provided to take into account the weather.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled, available space is used effectively to meet children's different needs and ensure they are safe and comfortable. Children can safely access a range of good quality toys and equipment. They can move around freely, independently selecting toys from the toy boxes.

The childminder is vigilant about safety, particularly when children are outdoors. She introduces road safety awareness during the journey to and from school, showing children how to cross the road safely. She ensures children hold hands and walk close by her when on outings and know why they must stay away from the kerb. The childminder places great importance on children learning why they need to follow these clear rules she has established, so children can fully understand the potential hazards and consequences that their actions may have on themselves and others.

The childminder has written consent to take children on outings, but failed to obtain written consent to transport children in her car, although she has verbal consent to do so.

The childminder has a commitment to protecting children from abuse and is clear her responsibilities are shared with parents, however, she has not obtained a copy of the safeguarding procedures and so is not familiar with the updated procedures to follow.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children access a varied range of interesting and challenging play experiences, during their short time with the childminder, all of which contribute to their learning and development. Activities available to them are age appropriate and meet the children's individual interests well, because the childminder is enthusiastic and well motivated. Children as they walk to school take into account the local environment and despite the weather younger children enjoy splashing in puddles. They are well protected in their Wellington boots and use of umbrellas.

Children are settled and extremely happy in the care of the childminder. She encourages them to become confident and independent learners through her continued support and frequent praise. Children have very good opportunities to take part in creative activities, painting, gluing, play dough, model making and jewellery. Younger children particularly enjoy the differing textures as they make necklaces and bracelets from dried decorated pasta shells. The childminder

instinctively knows when to play an active part in children's play and when to stand back and let them play freely.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder meets the individual needs of the children in her care very well. She takes time to get to know them well and understand their likes and dislikes. She is careful when planning activities to take into account their differing levels of understanding as well as their increasing need for independence.

The children behave well and have good social skills as the childminder has a secure knowledge of behaviour management which is discussed fully with parents. She places strong emphasis on fairness, turn taking and good manners, encouraging children to behave well by using lots of praise and encouragement. She talks quietly with children when their behaviour is not acceptable, so that they begin to understand right from wrong through her clear expectations and consistent approach.

Relationships with parents are good as the childminder gives considerable time to them in discussing the service of their children's progress or routines.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder uses her time well to benefit children as they receive good levels of attention and she plans a broad and balanced range of activities and experiences to meet their needs. Children confidently explore their environment, they make good use of all the space provided to them, as the childminder is careful to ensure an appropriate balance of learning, rest and free play.

The childminder is enthusiastic in her care of children. She holds the relevant first aid certificate and has a childcare qualification and uses this to influence her practice. The childminder is clear that no persons not vetted are caring for children. All records are reviewed regularly and most relevant records and documentation are in place and all are stored securely.

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 provider agreed to two recommendations in order to improve the quality of care for children. An evacuation plan was devised and practised with the children in the event of an emergency. The record of children's attendance contained all the relevant detail. These changes improve the safety for children.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider 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 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):

- update knowledge of safeguarding procedures
- ensure written consent is obtained to transport in a vehicle.

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