

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY357379
Inspection date	14 May 2008
Inspector	Janice Shaw
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 2007. The childminder lives in the Wilmslow district of Cheshire with her two children aged seven and one.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children and there are four children currently on roll. Minded children have access to all rooms in the house. There is an enclosed rear garden where children participate in physical and outdoor play activities. Children can be taken to and collected from local schools.

The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and receives support from the local authority.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Effective systems in place ensure that children's health is well promoted. The house is well maintained, clean and hygienic which ensures children's good health is maintained at all times.

Appropriate routines are in place for the changing of nappies, ensuring younger children's good health at this time. Fitting recording systems are in place to record accidents and the administration of medication, which enables parents to be kept up to date with their child's care and well-being.

Children enjoy a well balanced diet and are provided with a nutritious selection of home cooked food. For example, lasagne, spaghetti bolognaise and mild chilli. All snacks and meals are prepared daily using fresh ingredients. Children particularly enjoy making their own pizzas and the regular baking sessions with the childminder. Their physical health is promoted through regular daily walks to school, the park and other places of interest in the locality.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in an environment where their safety is well promoted because the childminder is clear about her responsibility to keep children safe from harm whilst in her care. She uses appropriate safety equipment to protect children, for example, safety gates, socket covers and smoke detectors. Children understand how to keep themselves safe when they practise regular emergency evacuation procedures as they know how to exit the house and where it is safe to wait with the childminder.

Resources are varied and used to support a good range of planned activities and experiences for all children. However, natural resources have not been sufficiently developed. Children's welfare is further safeguarded because the childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of possible signs and symptoms of abuse and of the relevant procedures.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children's enjoyment and achievement is promoted well by the childminder who understands the importance of providing a stimulating and interesting variety of activities and experiences. The children's day is well planned with a range of interesting activities and experiences. However, this is flexible and adaptable to meet the children's individual needs and interests. When caring for younger children all day, the childminder organises these days in a more structured way, for example, giving them time for active play, and quieter activities, such as story time and time for rest and relaxation. Children are developing a very good understanding of what is in their community by regular visits to rhyme time at the library and local toddler groups. During the holidays children enjoy travelling on trains and trams to visit places of interest further a field and they develop their independence skills by purchasing their own tickets for the journey.

Sleep patterns and routines are discussed in detail with parents and carers and are well implemented. Resources for sleep and rest times are appropriate, for example, individual bedding and children are checked at regular intervals. Children who are cared for overnight maintain their own individual bedtime routines. The childminder tries to ensure that children have regular opportunities to be outdoors.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are very much at home in the child orientated environment where the childminder knows the children well and meets their individual needs effectively. All children are valued

and encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards others. They have equal access to the activities and opportunities offered by the childminder, dependent upon their age and level of development. Children have access activities and resources that promote their understanding of diversity, such as books, small world toys and food tasting sessions. The childminder is experienced in the care of children with physical disabilities and strives hard to ensure that her home meets their individual needs. Strong emphasis is given to ensuring that group activities or outings involve everyone.

A successful relationship with parents has been established which enables the children's individual needs to be met effectively. Their individual requirements, routines and traditions are discussed carefully and in detail with parents prior to placement, to ensure continuity of care for them. As a result they are settled and happy in the friendly atmosphere created in her home. The children benefit from sleep and feeding routines which are consistent with their experiences at home.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is promoted by the childminder's efficient organisation. They feel at home and at ease in a well arranged environment. There is lots of space to play in comfort with resources being organised to promote their independence. This encourages them to make their own choices about their play and learning. The childminder organises her day around the children to ensure that their individual needs are catered for appropriately. There is a good awareness of the National Standards in place and this continually supports the childminding practice. All children's needs are known and supported through the very clear recording systems in place. All permissions are gained from parents regarding seeking emergency medical attention and transporting children on public transport.

The childminder has a very positive approach to her own professional development. For example, she has been proactive by attending many training courses, such as English as an additional language, safeguarding children, food hygiene and health and safety. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Not applicable.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since registration 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

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):

- increase opportunities for children to play with natural materials.

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