

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY362299
Inspection date	29 April 2008
Inspector	Sylvia Cornock
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 was registered in 2007. She lives with her partner and one child aged one year in Nantwich, Cheshire. The whole house, with the exception of the study and the childminder's bedroom, is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time

and is currently minding two children under five and two school aged children all on a part time basis. The childminder attends the local library for story time and takes and collects children from local schools. The family have a dog and cat.

The childminder holds an appropriate early years qualification. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive because the childminder follows consistently very good effective procedures and practices, which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs well. The excellent adult support and guidance helps children to gain a very good understanding of hygiene and they become increasingly independent in their personal care. The older children are very competent as they are reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet and before snack. Expert practice and consistently high standards of hygiene throughout the home significantly enhance children's health and actively prevents the spread of infection. Children learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through walks in the community and opportunities to play in the garden, extending their physical skills.

Children's medical health needs are managed well. There are procedures in place to protect the children from the spread of infection and the administration of medication. This promotes children's safety and well-being. The records of accidents are clearly well maintained. The childminder has a current first aid certificate. This helps to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children develop a very good awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet. They have good access to drinking water and fluids throughout the day. The children have a varied range of well balanced snacks and meals, which meet their individual needs well and is of good nutritional value, such as fruit. A menu is prepared for parents to view which is flexible as the children are given choice and all children's dietary needs are well documented.

Children enjoy outdoor activities that support and help to develop their physical skills. They benefit from excellent access to a very well-maintained outdoor area and activities that promote their large physical development and coordination. They have opportunities to develop their small physical skills as they engage in a variety of indoor activities. They are competent as they produce art and craft activities which they freely choose from the very wide range of excellent resources to stimulate development.

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 given a high priority as the childminder completes regular risk assessments, identifying possible risks or hazards and actively takes prompt action with utmost importance. This ensures children are cared for in a very safe, secure and supportive environment. Children can access the garden and the outdoor play space which has been designed to be child friendly and very safe. The childminder liaises closely with parents and carers, discussing children's individual needs in terms of their safety, allowing them optimal challenge to develop new skills. The use of suitable safety equipment, such as safety gates, to prevent accidents ensures children's safety and well-being are promoted.

The childminder conducts daily checks of both indoor and outdoor play space prior to the children's arrival; this significantly enhances their safety. High priority is given to close supervision at all times and particularly when using the garden. Children develop physical skills of independence through the childminder's superb detailed planning and supervision. Well

written policies and procedures along with regular discussion and evacuation practise of the premises gives children a clear understanding of the importance of staying safe in an emergency.

Children confidently select toys from the range set out for them, from storage boxes which are clearly labelled and from those offered to them by the childminder. Children access an extensive range of toys and equipment which is age appropriate, safe and hygienic. The regular checking of furniture, toys and equipment ensures that the children are kept very safe at all times.

Children are very well protected because the childminder has an excellent understanding of child protection policies and procedures; this actively contributes to children's safety and well-being. The childminder has undertaken a training course in child protection which further enhances her knowledge and understanding. A written policy which she shares with parents and carers ensures children's welfare is given a high priority. Parents and carers are made aware that the childminder's ultimate responsibility is the safety and welfare of the children she cares for.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is outstanding.

Children are very happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder. They are motivated, eager and actively participate in and enjoy the activities and experiences offered to them. Children are extremely confident and self-assured because of the excellent support and encouragement they receive from the childminder, for example, as they engage in their chosen activity building, playing in the sand-pit and garden watering the sunflowers they have planted. Children are confident and relate very well to each other. The childminder is enthusiastic and experienced; she uses her wealth of experience to plan an extensive range of opportunities and activities, which are organised around particular themes of interest. Children benefit from the childminder's highly skilled ability to balance her time interacting with children effectively and at appropriate moments, for example, leaving children to develop their own drawings and colourings. Younger children benefit from the childminder's excellent understanding of how children under three years develop and learn. Older children have well planned opportunities to promote and develop their existing skills and learning.

Children access a wide range of stimulating activities and experiences, both within and away from the childminding setting, which support the growth of children's development across all areas. During the inspection children are highly motivated and actively engrossed in imaginary play. They use their imagination when using the extensive range of toys especially as they build towers and use play people and dolls. They have the opportunity to develop their understanding of other cultures through the excellent resources available and the celebration of festivals. They complete craft activities developing hand eye coordination as they design various art and craft pictures which are displayed using a wide selection of materials. They use a variety of equipment, toys and different areas of the available space to create their individual play. Children are animated and excited when adults present take an interest and listen carefully to what they are saying and join in with them in developing their play. Access to very good resources and interaction from the childminder sustains children's interest and enables them to successfully develop their play.

Children's behaviour is excellent. The childminder encourages children's behaviour and achievements through the use of positive praise and encouragement. This positive praise encourages children to persevere and practise skills. The childminder uses positive language

to actively encourage children's enjoyment, pride in their achievements and confidence. She gives children one to one time as she helps an older child with his counting skills.

Children develop very good large and small physical skills through planned activities. They practise climbing and balancing skills during outdoor play. They experience the wonders of wildlife in the garden as they observe bees and insects. They experience the wider community as they go for walks, visit local parks and other places of interest, such as the library for story time. Children are extremely happy and interested in their play. They confidently explore their environment and eagerly interact with adults and each other. Their independence is very much encouraged as they help tidy away toys and equipment.

Children make excellent progress in all areas of their development. They achieve very well because the childminder uses her knowledge and skills to provide high quality care and education for the children. The childminder has attended several childcare training sessions and makes excellent use of the knowledge she has acquired to help children make progress. She is very dedicated and creates a vibrant and stimulating environment. There is a wealth of toys, resources and displayed materials which children can freely access.

The 'Birth to three matters' framework is effectively used and the children's achievements are celebrated and documented in a variety of ways. The childminder records their progress through photographs. Activities are planned and topical themes introduced with excellent use of supporting materials. Children flourish in their communication skills. The childminder promotes their language skills and she constantly talks and listens to children. During play she skilfully uses excellent questioning and echoes young children's speech to encourage them to use language for thinking.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed and have equal access to all activities and experiences offered which are stimulating and age appropriate. Children play cooperatively together sharing and taking turns with activities and equipment and develop an understanding of others and differences. Children access an extensive range of resources that reflect multi-cultural and disability issues. Their understanding of others is encouraged through well planned themes and spontaneous activities. Children's natural curiosity and questions are dealt with in a sensitive and considerate manner. The childminder's equal opportunities policy and practice ensures children's equality of opportunity, including children with learning difficulties or disabilities.

Children are very happy and content in their play which is seen as children play happily together and chat with each other, the childminder and inspector. Children's self-confidence is evident and is very well promoted as they receive lots of positive praise and encouragement from the childminder, resulting in their enjoyment and contentment. Children's excellent behaviour is as a result of the childminder's support and encouragement. The childminder is clear about the need to promote children's positive behaviour and self-esteem. She has produced a written behaviour management policy which she shares with parents and carers.

The childminder's understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework enables her to plan activities and the minded children's day. Children are given good opportunities to develop their confidence and sense of belonging through very good encouragement, support and interaction.

Children benefit greatly from the excellent partnership with parents and carers. Children's individual needs and requirements are discussed carefully and in detail with parents and carers prior to placement and on an ongoing basis as they develop new skills and achieve milestones in their development. Successful relationships with parents and carers support the children's development very well. Feedback on children's development and general well-being is given on a regular basis in an informal, verbal way on a daily basis and in written form by means of a daily journal and written observations of development. Parents and carers have access to information on what the childminder has to offer, information about Ofsted and records. The childminder provides an individual folder for each child recording their progress and achievements, which parents can view at any time and add their comments.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for within a very well planned and organised environment. Children access toys, equipment and activities which are planned and prepared prior to the children arriving, enabling children to feel welcome, confident and happy. Children confidently access and are involved in a range of interesting and age appropriate activities both within and away from the childminding setting. The childminder has, and continues to undertake, appropriate training to enhance her existing very good practice and knowledge, enabling her to provide high quality childcare.

All legally required documentation and records relating to the minded children are retained, ensuring that the childminder is able to care for children in a safe and confident manner. However, the daily register does not record the actual times of arrive and departure, but the intended hours. Children's individual needs and requirements are well known and discussed with parents and carers prior to their child starting, ensuring their individual needs are well addressed and provided for. Children's safety and well-being are given high priority as the childminder obtains parental consent for several aspects of her care.

Children's care and learning is promoted and their progression monitored by the childminder. Regular evaluations of practice ensure children are extremely well cared for. The childminder is very clear about her role and responsibility in providing a high quality service to the children and their family.

Observations relating to the child's minded day, development and general well-being are fed back to parents and carers in an informal, verbal way as they collect their children at the end of their minded day. The childminder also has many photographs which are shared with parents enabling them to know how their child has spent their day. Children benefit from the excellent communication between the childminder, parents and carers.

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 all 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

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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):

- ensure that the daily register records actual times of arrival and departure of the children.

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