



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY308781
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 November 2005
<b>Inspector</b>	Michele Anne Villiers

<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 satisfactory. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.
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### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 2005. She lives with her husband and two daughters aged three years and one year in Warrington, Cheshire. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house and one upstairs bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under 1 year old. The childminder also cares for one child over the age of eight years. The childminder takes children to the local parent/toddler group.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder takes appropriate steps to help prevent the spread of infection with babies and young children. Their health needs are protected in satisfactory hygiene routines where the home is clean and well maintained. Positive steps are taken when changing nappies to minimise cross infection and suitable procedures are in place should children become sick. There is a first aid box for the childminder to attend to minor injuries. However, the contents include items not appropriate for children, such as tablets, used by the family. Children's health is further protected as parental consent is obtained for the administration of any medication, and documentation is in place for the recording of medication and accidents.

Children benefit from daily physical activity. They play in the garden with a range of toys to promote their stamina and strength, and go for walks in the local park. Occasionally children go on outings to Southport beach, where they can run around. Babies are gently encouraged to develop their physical skills in crawling and reaching for toys. They chuckle and smile as they learn about their own bodies and have their feet tickled.

Snacks and meals are provided throughout the day, and fruit is offered daily, helping children to make healthy choices. Sugary food is kept to a minimum. Babies and young children enjoy cereal such as Weetabix for breakfast, and yogurt or fruit for snacks. Hot meals are suitably nutritious, with some meals home cooked. The childminder takes account of parents' preferences and provides healthy options when babies are being weaned. Babies' needs are met as the childminder recognises the signs of hunger or tiredness, as they become restless or lack concentration. Babies are held when bottle fed and gently rocked to sleep, fostering their emotional well being. Children have free access to drinks from their own feeder cup to satisfy their thirst, and babies are offered regular drinks.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are welcome into a family environment, where adequate space is provided for them to play in safety and move around. Various activities take place in each of the ground floor rooms, including the conservatory. The downstairs toilet is easily accessible for children, promoting their independence. Children play with a sufficient range of toys and resources that are of suitable design. However, there is a limited range of toys for older children and young babies, to fully promote their interests and provide a range of stimulating activities.

Positive steps are taken to promote safety within the home and to prevent accidents. Safety gates and fire guards are fitted appropriately throughout the home. Fire safety precautions are in place. Smoke alarms are in place on both levels of the home and a fire blanket in the kitchen. The childminder has established an emergency

evacuation procedure to practise with the children, to further protect them. Children learn about safety and keeping themselves safe on outings. The older children discuss road safety before going on walks, and young children and babies are safely strapped into buggies, with reins available to use. The childminder further ensures safety measures are taken and carries a mobile phone with parent contact numbers for emergency.

The childminder has some knowledge and understanding of child protection issues, and has a written statement, which is shared with parents. However, little thought has been given to the procedure to follow if an allegation of abuse is made whilst a child is in the childminder's care.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Babies are happy and content. They respond with smiles and chuckles in a warm, caring relationship with the childminder. They play on the floor and are encouraged to crawl and reach out to toys, exploring new skills. They access some tactile and sensory resources, although these are limited for young babies. The childminder encourages babies to independently grasp larger toys, such as colourful stacking beakers, and values their achievements with positive words such as "clever girl" and claps her hands. Repetitive language is used to reinforce their communication skills. The childminder sits on the floor to maintain physical and eye contact and talks about what they are doing. She responds to their actions and moves her body, joining in as the baby starts to jiggle and move to the music on the television.

The childminder plans and provides an adequate range of activities that help children to develop and learn. Older children learn about the natural world, digging and planting bulbs in the garden, in order to watch the flowers grow in the spring. Many activities help to promote the children's creative skills. They explore colour when painting, and use different textured materials to make collage pictures. Children also enjoy model-making with salt dough. Children develop an interest in books and frequently visit the library to use books for enjoyment and reference. They socialise with other children when visiting the local parent and toddler group. At snack time children sometimes make their own sandwiches, buttering the rolls and choosing their own filling, helping to promote their independent skills. School age children learn to match and sequence with some board games and puzzles and enjoy play with Scalextric cars. However, there are limited toys to fully promote the welfare of older, more able children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children settle happily in a supportive and caring environment. Babies and young children receive hugs and cuddles to develop their self assurance. The childminder provides a flexible routine to accommodate the children's individual needs. The children's needs are discussed with parents and written information is gathered about

their routine and their likes and dislikes. Children develop some understanding of the diverse world in which they live, but there are few toys and resources reflecting positive images of race, culture, gender and disability to further the children's learning and respect for others.

The positive environment and the childminder's calm and consistent manner reinforce the children's good behaviour. Children are rewarded with praise and encouragement and learn to share and take turns. Information is shared with parents through daily discussion and recorded in a diary to develop continuity of care for children. Parents receive a copy of all written policies and procedures and are encouraged to contribute their ideas during the children's settling in period.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children play in a family environment with sufficient space to move around and access toys and activities. Appropriate support is given to children and some toys are easily accessed from low-level storage boxes, offering them choices and promoting their independent learning. The day's activities are suitably organised to provide a balance of opportunities, and experiences both inside and outdoors.

The childminder has a reasonable knowledge and understanding of the National Standards. She is committed to improving her own knowledge and skills to continue to develop the quality of care for children. All required documentation and records are in place and there are many written policies and procedures to further develop the effective management of the provision. Overall the provision meets the needs of the children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- continue to increase toys and resources appropriate for the age range and ability of the children being minded
- provide a wider range of toys and resources that show positive images of gender, people of all races, cultures and abilities
- provide a first aid box which contains only items determined in the first aid training course
- become more aware of the procedure to follow if any allegations of abuse are made about you or other people who have access to a child while the child is in your care.

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)