



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	307918
Inspection date	23 June 2005
Inspector	Mary Wignall

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 for over 18 years. She lives with her husband, and their 3 adult children. They live in a detached property in the Euxton area, which situated just outside Chorley town centre. The house is within close proximity of the: park; school; shops; and hospital. Minded children have access to all of the ground floor, which includes the lounge/dining area, and the kitchen/dining room. Toilet and washing facilities are located on the ground floor, with sleeping facilities also available on this floor. There is an enclosed garden area available for outdoor play. Care is provided for school and pre school aged children both term time and non term time.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from the childminder's understanding of healthy eating and her work with parents to ensure children's dietary needs are met. The children sit together, eating food provided by parents or the childminder, enjoying their meal and chatting in a relaxed and comfortable manner. The childminder ensures the children are offered fresh fruit daily extending the children's experience of foods.

Good hygiene practices are followed and policies and procedures are in place to support children's health. The children develop an understanding of the importance of washing hands by the childminder's explanations and help. Good standards of hygiene protect young children in nappy changing routines. The childminder, ensures the children are happy throughout the changing, talking to the children, ensuring they are comfortable and happy. The children are protected from the risk of cross infection as the childminder cleans all toys and surfaces on a regular basis.

The children enjoy outdoor activities which enable them to explore and develop control of their bodies. They enjoy the range of toys available which they find fun and exciting. Younger children enjoyed the space to ride the tricycle whilst older children played happily with the kitchen or the tent. The childminder has some understanding of the need for sun protection although current practices mean that not all children have are sufficiently protected from the sun.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, secure and safe indoor and outdoor environment. Risks are minimised to enable the children safe, independent, freedom of movement around the home. The children self select from a range of good quality toys that are stored attractively for the children in play bags or boxes.

The children learn to keep themselves safe by clear direction and explanation by the childminder. They are told why not to run, and to think of others playing nearby to avoid collision or injury. The childminder uses the toys well to help the children think about safety, strapping dolls in their prams and asking what would happen to them otherwise. The childminder has all the required procedures and documents in place to ensure children's welfare is promoted; for example; appropriate insurances and child protection procedures that are in line with current guidance.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are engaged in range of activities which they clearly enjoy. The childminder reads a story with the children snuggled close and keeps them interested, making it

fun and exciting. The children are happy to join in and are confident moving onto other activities chosen by them. The childminder's good questioning skill encourages the children to think and builds on previous activities. The children enjoy sharing tasks with the childminder who reminds them how to water the plants that they had previously planted together. They enjoy the responsibility and learn about the natural environment. The childminder offers a good role model for the children, using 'please' and 'thanks you' and helping the children to distinguish between right from wrong. When the children find a slug the childminder uses the opportunity to talk about it and its needs to be comfortable and not squashed.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder uses resources well to develop the children's knowledge and respect of others. Children play with resources with positive images of diversity and disability increasing their understanding of the world. They read books with the childminder which explores feelings and are encouraged to think about each other developing their understanding and respect for others.

The children play well together and are helped by the childminder's calm and consistent approach. They listen well to her explanations of why they should share and respond positively to her fair and clear guidance.

Children are valued and treated as individual. Children sleep or rest within their own routines. Good systems to liaise with parents ensure children's needs are known and met. Children with special needs are cared according to their needs and as agreed with parents. Regular contact and feedback with parents means that children's needs and development are regularly discussed and are appropriate for each child.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children are comfortable in the home due to the childminder's organisation and presentation of toys and resources. This means they are confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. Policies and procedures are used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of the children. They are shared with parents to keep them informed about their child's development and activities at the childminder's. Records are held in keeping with the National Standards although the record of attendance does not record when the children are cared for at nursery rather than at the childminder's home. Records are kept of the children's individual and special needs although the organisation of the record of the children's special needs were not as easily accessible as children's other needs. This may make accessing these records difficult in any emergency. Overall, the provision meets the need of the children who attend.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the previous inspection a number of actions were agreed: to ensure the children's attendance record is kept accurate at all times; and to increase knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities.

Since the last inspection the childminder has attended a relevant training course on multicultural play. She has increased her understanding and implementation of equal opportunities for the benefit of the children's welfare and their knowledge and understanding of the world. She has also changed the method of recording children's attendance and ensures the record is kept up to date although a further recommendation has been made in this report.

As a result of these actions the care of the children is in keeping with the National Standards, promoting the children's welfare and understanding.

Complaints since the last inspection

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.

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):

- revise current arrangements to ensure all children are adequately protected from the dangers of the sun
- ensure children's special needs are recorded alongside children's other needs ensuring the record is easily accessible at all times to ensure the children's health and welfare is promoted
- ensure the record of children's attendance accurately shows when the children are cared for on or off the premises to ensure their welfare at all times

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:

