



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY224371
Inspection date	15 June 2006
Inspector	Frances 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 was registered in 2003. She lives with her two daughters aged 13 and 10 years in the Leigh area of Wigan. The whole of the ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder is registered to care for six children at any one time and is currently minding five children at different times. The childminder attends the local parent/toddler group and takes children to the local park. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean, well maintained household. The childminder is proactive in promoting good hygiene practices. As a result children learn about personal health and hygiene.

They wash their hands at appropriate times and have their own toothbrushes for after dinner use. They are protected from sickness, as the childminder maintains a regular cleaning regime and sterilises toys and work surfaces on a regular basis. This minimises the risk of cross infection. The childminder has a suitably stocked first aid box and has an up to date first aid certificate ensuring she is equipped in an emergency.

Children's health and dietary needs are met through discussion with parents. The childminder has a good knowledge of healthy eating and takes account of special dietary requirements and children's preferences. Detailed records are kept of children's requirements ensuring parents' wishes are met. The childminder introduces different foods gradually whilst providing balanced, nutritious meals and snacks. Children are well hydrated during the day and can choose from a variety of drinks. They are encouraged to feed themselves and are learning to develop their social skills whilst they sit together to eat at the table. Their physical health is promoted through regular outdoor exercise. Children have the opportunity of going for walks and visiting local parks and pre-school groups where they can enjoy large play equipment along with bikes, push-along toys and have a run around.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The childminder's home has a happy, friendly atmosphere where children feel at home in their environment. It is welcoming for children to see their art work displayed promoting self-esteem in their achievements. There is plenty of space to move around freely inside with easy access to a fully enclosed garden for outdoor activities. Children benefit from close supervision whilst being able to select their own toys from a good selection of resources. These are stored at low level for easy access and are in a good state of repair. A variety of stimulating experiences are offered with age appropriate toys and equipment. Toys are sufficient in quantity and cover different areas of child development through play. Children are motivated and show interest in toys made from a variety of tactile materials such as wood, plastic, hard, soft and crinkly fabrics.

The childminder has paid attention to safety and has various items in place to prevent accidents. Children are practiced in the emergency evacuation procedures ensuring their safety is a priority. They are learning about road safety when they are out and not to go too close to the water whilst feeding the ducks, giving them a sense of personal responsibility. Effective systems are in place for the safe collection of children ensuring their well-being is safeguarded. The childminder has good knowledge of child protection issues and is confident in implementing the procedures, should she have any concerns regarding child safety.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder is attentive to children ensuring they are happy and content in her care. She gives them hugs and cuddles and encourages them in their play. She has devised a weekly planner which details a broad range of activities. These are helping children with their social, emotional and intellectual skills. The plans are shared with parents to keep them involved in

their child's care. The childminder uses games and nursery rhymes to encourage children to repeat words and sounds helping their language development. Children are absorbed whilst she sits on the floor to read stories, pointing out different animal characters and making animal sounds. They have fun making pictures of the animals and connecting them to the story. Children are offered plenty of creative play and make pictures of happy and sad faces. This gives them an understanding of different emotions. Children can take their finished pictures home or have them displayed on the wall focusing on their achievement and building their self-esteem. Their physical development is promoted with lots of outdoor play. They visit local parent/toddler and childminder groups so they can play with their own age group and have access to larger equipment to climb on. They go for walks and visit local parks.

The childminder has a sound knowledge of the Birth to three matters framework. Babies play confidently with age appropriate toys such as books with different textures and musical sounds, shape sorters and building blocks. They are learning to develop sensory skills whilst they identify items made from different mediums in the treasure basket. Babies become engrossed and are included as the childminder makes bubbles for older children and watches them pop on the floor. The childminder ensures their individual welfare is promoted by finding out about their routines from parents. She helps them progress by setting realistic targets for their next steps. A monthly log book of children's achievements is completed. This contains details for parents relating to what children have completed and achieved during that month. Details of realistic targets for the next month are discussed and agreed with parents.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder endeavours to develop positive attitudes in others. She provides a range of resources that reflect a balance of non-stereotypical images that respect diversity. The childminder encourages children to develop to their full potential by providing appropriate equipment to meet their needs. She spends time with them to give them a strong sense of belonging and lets them know they are wanted and so feel comfortable in her care. The childminder shows a good awareness and understanding of specific needs and ensures routines are followed according to parents' expressed wishes.

Children are learning to respect others through responsible behaviour. They are beginning to know right from wrong, to share and take turns. Age appropriate ground rules are in place with a basic strategy of consistent praise and reward to encourage good behaviour. Stamps and stickers are used to approve self-discipline and encourage further effort.

The childminder has a good relationship with parents which benefits children's well-being. Children are looked after according to parent's wishes with contractual agreements being completed. The childminder has devised a set of written, comprehensive policies. These are informative and agreed with parents at commencement of care ensuring both parties know their responsibilities. Good methods of storage of records and documentation ensures confidentiality is maintained. Good systems for the exchange of information are in place. This keeps parents informed about the provision and of their child's progress. They are given daily verbal feedback and a written daily log sheet. This gives details of how their child has spent

the day; food eaten, nappy changes, sleep times and activities. Individual books are completed to show children's progress and achievements.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

The childminder has made a commitment to furthering her knowledge of childcare issues by attending appropriate courses. This enables her to keep up to date with current issues and children's care and well-being is enhanced. Children benefit from a well organised, happy environment where they can move around in confidence and feel safe. They enjoy free movement during play and are able to access their resources easily. The childminder organises her time well to offer flexible routines that fit in with children's own circumstances. She has all the required documents and detailed records in place. Parents are made aware of the complaints procedure although the childminder does not have methods of recording any complaints she may receive. A secure storage system for records ensures confidentiality is maintained.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to further develop her knowledge and understanding of equal opportunities issues. To address this issue she has attended an awareness course entitled An Equal Start which covered all aspects of equal opportunities. This has enabled the childminder to actively promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice giving children wider experiences of the world around them.

Complaints since the last inspection

There are no complaints to report since the last inspection. 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):

- ensure systems are in place to record any complaints received.

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