



Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY315067
Inspection date	06 April 2006
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 2005. She lives with her husband and 2 children aged 5 and 11 years old in Elworth, Sandbach. 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 a maximum of 5 children at any one time and is currently minding one school aged child under 8 years old and two children over 8 years. The family has a dog and cat.

The childminder and children visit a local after school club.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children thrive because the childminder follows consistent highly effective procedures and practices, which meet the children's physical, nutritional and health needs. The exceptional adult support and guidance helps children to gain a good understanding of hygiene and become increasingly independent in their personal care. They learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily physical activities using stimulating outdoor experiences and activities, such as climbing and balancing on appropriate apparatus in the garden, extending their physical skills.

Children develop a very good awareness of the benefits of a healthy diet, through rich, varied, imaginative activities and topics, such as healthy eating. They have good access to drinking water and fluids throughout the day. The children have a broad and varied range of well balanced snacks, which meets their individual needs well and is of good nutritional value, such as fruit and vegetables. All children's dietary needs are well documented.

Children's medical health needs are managed very consistently. There are procedures in place for the administration of medication and protecting children from the spread of infection. The records of accidents and medication administered are clearly well maintained. Expert practice and consistently high standards of hygiene throughout the home significantly enhance children's health and actively prevent the spread of infection. The childminder has a current first aid certificate. This helps to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children enjoy a very good range of 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 are given wide and varied opportunities to choose from equipment to stimulate development. Planned daily visits to local activity centres, walks in the local countryside and outdoor ballgames, ensure that children have daily exercise.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a highly motivated environment where safety is high priority. Excellent safety procedures are in place to protect children from hazards and dangers through completing risk assessments. Children move around freely, independently and safely. The childminder discusses with all children how to keep themselves safe, including their understanding of safety outside the home, as they take their daily outings.

Children show a consistently high level of independence as they select toys and activities from a wide range of exceptional high-quality toys and equipment, which meet safety standards. The childminder is robust in her observations, and carefully monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to make sure that they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The welfare and safety of children is significantly enhanced and promoted as the childminder ensures that the required procedures and documents are in place. The childminder has a written policy on the procedures to follow in the event of evacuation of the premises. This is regularly practised with the children; this enhances children's safety. The childminder has a secure knowledge and understanding of child protection in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. However, the telephone number for the local police is not accessible.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy their time at the childminder's. They achieve well because the childminder is motivated and highly skilled, and uses her positive understanding of how young children progress to provide high quality care and education.

Children are well settled, relaxed and happy at the childminder's house. Children play exceptionally well together and with other children that they meet through visits to the local after school club. Children show a wealth of independence as they choose between a rich variety of activities, which appeal to them and are suitable for their ages and stages of development. They relate well to each other, adults and the childminder.

They show excitement and enthusiasm as they share and use their imagination well as they paint designs on their bats and ball. They have opportunities to use their skills as they play games and engage in art and craft activities. Skilful intervention from the childminder encourages children to develop their own independence as they discuss and plan their next month's programme of activities.

Children are welcomed into the family home where they experience a sense of belonging. The childminder has an excellent understanding of each child's stage of development. This means that children are confident to try out new skills, ask for help when needed and set their own limits within an inspiring and superb environment.

Children enjoy talking about their school day, families and home-life, creating plenty of language. The childminder extends their interests, responds to their questions and challenges their ability as they engage in their chosen activity. This has a positive effect on the quality of children's learning.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children are welcomed into the home and play a full part within the family structure.

The childminder values and respects their individuality and the family context for each child. Children gain a very good awareness of their local environment and the diversity of the wider world through planned activities and outings to local places of interest. Children are able to access a very good selection of resources that promote positive images. All children are included in the activities provided and individual needs are very well met.

Children play well together, they share and take turns, they show respect and concern for each other and their behaviour is exemplary. The childminder has high expectations and sets consistent boundaries, taking into account children's stage of development. She meets individual needs well with regard to behaviour management. Children respond well and, as a result, show a growing awareness of right and wrong. They are settled and make themselves at home.

An exceptional partnership with parents exists which contributes significantly to children's wellbeing. Children are being cared for in accordance with their parents wishes. Individual needs and requirements are discussed carefully and in detail with parents and carers prior to placement and on an on-going basis, as they develop new skills and achieve milestones in their development. Feedback on children's development and general wellbeing is given on a regular basis in an informal verbal way. Parents and carers have access to information on what the childminder has to offer, and information about Ofsted and records. This contributes to continuity in the children's good health, safety, development and learning.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children's care is greatly enhanced by the superb quality of the childminder's organisation and well-planned day. This helps children to feel at home and at ease; they feel secure and confident in their surroundings, initiating and extending their own play and learning. Well-organised visits to after school groups, places of interest and contact with other children, widens children's play opportunities and helps them to make excellent progress.

All relevant documentation, policies and procedures are good and used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder is extremely confident and her care and teaching is highly motivated by the many training courses undertaken and her intentions to access future training in the care and education of young children. This enthusiasm enhances her existing excellent good practice and supports children's progress and development.

Children benefit from highly innovative, well-organised indoor and outdoor space to maximise play opportunities. Good risk assessments and planning of activities and routines help to keep children safe and enables them to make exceptionally good progress in all areas of their development.

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

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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 the telephone number for the local police is easily accessible.

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