



## Inspection report for early years provision

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| <b>Unique Reference Number</b> | 307753                  |
| <b>Inspection date</b>         | 28 September 2006       |
| <b>Inspector</b>               | Kathy Ann Leatherbarrow |
| <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 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 since October 1992. She lives with her husband and their adult son and daughter. They live in a three bedroomed, mid-terraced home located within a residential area of Lancashire, close to local schools, shops and a park.

Children have access to the whole of the ground floor, which includes the lounge and dining room. The bathroom is on the first floor. There is a rear outdoor garden available for the children to play in.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children under eight years. There are currently six children on roll under eight years. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's health is protected as the childminder has good standards of hygiene and cleanliness around the home. Children are encouraged to develop good personal hygiene. For example, washing their hands after toileting and before meals; some children are encouraged to brush their teeth in the morning before school. They visit the doctors where they collect information on healthy eating 'five a day' and relate their visits to story books on their return.

Children are alert and well rested. Infants often sleep outside in the back garden to enable them to benefit from the fresh air, and sleep peacefully away from older children engaged in play.

Children enjoy a wide range of activities which contribute to their good health. They walk everywhere they go, and some are taken swimming once a week. Coordination and physical development is enhanced, as children learn how to balance as they dance along to music with the childminder.

The childminder provides meals which are very healthy and well balanced, for example, sausage, potato, broccoli, sprouts, cauliflower and gravy. All children are encouraged to learn the importance of healthy eating and try a variety of fresh fruit each day, such as apples, strawberries, kiwi, pineapple and grapes. This promotes their growth and development. Children are provided with frequent drinks throughout the day to quench their thirst.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a warm, secure and safe environment. They are able to move around with ease as there is plenty of space for them to play and, when required, rest. A varied range of good quality toys and equipment provides children with plenty of choice to stimulate their interests. Children are independent as they choose their own activities and resources. For example, children freely move from one area to another to access their chosen equipment, such as books, dressing up clothes and jigsaws.

Children are safe and secure. Positive steps are taken by the childminder as she identifies and minimises risks for children in the home. This means they are able to move around safely, freely and independently. The childminder gives high priority to helping children understand how to keep themselves safe and to maintaining children's safety. For example, they practise the fire drill every month and children understand they need to check the batteries in the smoke alarms to ensure they are kept safe.

Children are aware of dangers when outdoors as the childminder informs them about the importance of road safety. For example, children participate in sponsored road safety mornings at the childminder pop-in group. A local lollipop person explains their job, the importance of

it and how to keep themselves safe when out. Children are safe and their wellbeing protected as the childminder has a clear understanding of child protection procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle very well and are confident to make themselves at home. Children are keen to make choices about their play and are independent as they choose from a variety of stimulating and exciting toys, books and activities. Children's all round development is good as the childminder uses the Birth to three matters framework to adapt plans for individual children's development. However, infants' sensory development is not fully enhanced.

Children are developing good language and communication skills through the use of books, stories and role play. They sit and attentively listen to stories read by the childminder. They enjoy joining in with stories which they can relate to, such as making cakes of their own with the childminder.

The childminder spends time sitting on the floor supporting children's learning as they count the number of animals in the farm. She spends time talking and listening to children, which successfully promotes children's self-esteem and confidence. The childminder is warm and caring towards the children with plenty of hugs and smiles. This develops children's emotional wellbeing and encourages friendships where they show affection and hug one another.

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

The provision is good.

Children feel valued because the childminder treats all children with equal concern. She has completed some training on 'making sense of special needs' and has some experience of caring for children with specific needs. She recognises the importance of adopting a sensitive approach to help meet the children's individual needs.

Children learn to develop a positive attitude towards others as the childminder answers their questions about similarities and differences in an appropriate and positive manner. Children enjoy listening to stories, and participate as they talk about all different kinds of people, for example, some have short, long, bushy or spiky hair, have freckles, wear glasses and have different colour skin.

Children behave well and are learning to share and cooperate with one another. Both the childminder and children celebrate their success and achievements by clapping hands and cheering. This boosts children's self-esteem and fosters confidence.

Information is up to date ensuring that all children's individual needs are met in a consistent manner. Children's care is enhanced by the appropriate opportunities that are in place to exchange information about the children on a daily basis. The childminder has begun to create individual folders on each child which, shared with parents, will enhance their understanding of what their children are learning throughout the day with the childminder.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures that children's all round development is good as she holds a NVQ level three in Early Years Care and Education. She actively seeks training to enhance her skills, knowledge and experience. For example, she has completed additional training in developing the Birth to three matters framework, identification of additional needs and first aid.

Children feel at home and at ease by the welcoming, friendly environment. This means they are confident, independent and able to initiate their own play and learning in a bright and well organised play room.

Documentation is in place and she increasingly uses some policies and procedures to promote the welfare and care of children. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. However, not all adults within the home have fully completed the vetting procedure.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder agreed to ensure the attendance record is kept up to date and ensure that children have an appropriate range of activities and resources that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

Since the last inspection, the childminder ensures children's attendance is accurately recorded in the register and has increased the range of toys and resources to promote positive images of culture, ethnicity, gender and disability. Due to these actions being taken, she has increased safety precautions to reduce the risks to children and enhanced the quality of care for children.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection 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 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):

- further enhance infants' sensory development through the use of the Birth to three matters framework
- continue to develop individual records of children's achievements to enhance parents' understanding of what their children are learning throughout the day
- ensure that all persons over the age of 16 years living on the premises undergo checks.

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](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)