

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	314910
Inspection date	02 August 2007
Inspector	Susan Janet Lee
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 1998. She lives with her husband and two adult children in a detached property in the Birchwood area of Warrington. The childminder has a childcare qualification.

The lounge, dining room, conservatory and kitchen on the ground floor and the bathroom and the master bedroom with ensuite bathroom facilities on the first floor are used for childminding purposes. There is a rear garden available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered to provide care for a maximum of six children at any one time and is currently caring for three children. She is able to take and collect children from the local primary school and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in well maintained premises. They stay healthy because the childminder exercises good hygiene practices to minimise the risk of cross infection. For example, she provides children's individual bedding, face cloths and towels and she follows good standards of hygiene when changing nappies to help protect the youngest children. The older children learn about personal care routines as they wash their hands at appropriate times of the day. They know they need to wash their hands before snack to make sure they are clean. The written sick children's policy ensures effective measures are in place when children are ill.

The childminder has attended food hygiene training and has devised a nutrition policy. The children are well nourished and develop an understanding of healthy options as the childminder has a good understanding of the importance of healthy eating and provides snacks and meals that are well balanced and wholesome. This helps to aid children's growth and development. She encourages the children to eat up to five portions of fruit and vegetables each day. The children help to make fresh orange juice by helping to juice oranges. There are posters displayed regarding healthy eating and the children have stories about what constitutes healthy foods and how this helps them to grow big and strong. The children are able to independently access drinks to quench their thirst and the childminder ensures that babies have drinks at regular intervals to keep them hydrated.

Babies are able to move around and develop their physical skills such as sitting, rolling, stretching and standing supported. They benefit from routines that are consistent to their home experiences as the childminder follows their individual sleep and meal routines and this provides a secure and familiar environment. Older children have lots of opportunities to enjoy and develop their physical skills as they play in the garden each day, visit the park and enjoy music and movement activities. They learn about their bodies and develop control and coordination as they have access to a wide range of outdoor play equipment. Photographic documentation shows the children playing skittles in the garden, swinging on tyres in the park, visiting a safari park, having a picnic in the fresh air and riding on a steam train. All of which contributes to their good health and physical development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

The children are cared for in a warm, welcoming and homely environment. Photographs, posters and information for parents are displayed, making the environment bright and informative. The children are able to move around freely to extend their play and explore their surroundings. There is a good selection of equipment and furniture available allowing babies and older children to play rest and eat in comfort. The childminder provides a wide range of resources to meet the needs of the children being cared for. She rotates toys to add variety and interest. Toys are stored at child height enabling children to freely choose what they want to play with and helping them to extend their play and develop choice and independence. The childminder also uses the local library to enhance children's activities.

Comprehensive policies and risk assessments are in place and observed at all times. The childminder has a good understanding of safety and gives it a high priority. All areas of the environment in which children are cared for are safe and secure. The childminder practises the

escape plan with children so they develop an awareness of what to do in the event of an emergency such as a fire. She supervises the children well enabling them to play safely and independently and she encourages their understanding in keeping themselves safe through the use of age appropriate explanation. Older children understand the boundaries such as not running indoors and sitting down when eating or drinking.

All required documentation is in place. The childminder has attended additional child protection training to keep herself up to date with current legislation. She has a secure understanding of child protection matters and procedures, ensuring children's welfare is effectively safeguarded.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

The childminder has attended training in relation to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. She has a good understanding of the framework and plans a lovely range of activities and experiences to help the children develop their physical, intellectual, emotional and social capabilities. The childminder observes the children at play and uses this information to chart children's developmental progress and to plan future play activities. She tracks children's progress using the aspects of the framework and also a more detailed account of their development using written observations and photographs. These records are shared with parents on a regular basis.

The children have access to a wide range of activities and experiences and they are happily engaged and occupied. They also benefit from activities outside the home as the childminder utilises local amenities such as the park, library, museums and parent toddler group. This helps to widen children's experiences and give them opportunities to socialise with their peers.

The childminder dedicates time playing and talking to the children. She shares warm relationships with the children, who are happy and secure in her care. The childminder provides lots of positive physical contact by means of hugs and cuddles, helping the children to feel secure and reassured.

Babies have access to a wide range of natural play materials as well as toys that are colourful, tactile and that make noises, helping to develop their sensory exploration. Babies begin to find a voice and listen and respond as the childminder nurtures their attempts to communicate. She listens when they babble and responds in gentle playful tones, helping to reinforce early speech patterns. Very young children develop a sense of their own identity and make connections. They look at their reflection in a mirror and smile, moving closer to take a closer look.

Older children are very involved in activities of their choosing. They develop their fine manipulative skills and hand eye coordination as they carefully pick up small beads and place them onto a board making very complex patterns. The childminder talks to the children about what they are doing and supports them well. The children clearly enjoy their time with the childminder. They comment that they have lots of fun and go to lots of interesting places.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

The childminder gathers a wealth of information from parents about their children's individual needs and routines to enable her to be in a position to best meet these needs. The children develop an awareness of their local community through trips out. They have access to a very good range of resources that reflect diversity, helping them to learn about themselves, each

other and the world around them. The children also celebrate their own and other festivals and this helps them to value each others similarities and differences and develop respect for other people's cultures and traditions. The childminder provides an inclusive environment for the children who attend and she demonstrates a positive attitude towards children with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The childminder acts as a good role model to the children. She is calm, patient and sensitive and listens intently when the children speak and takes a real interest in what the children do and say. As a result, the children develop an understanding of what is expected of them. They are polite and behave well. The childminder praises children's efforts and achievements and they develop confidence and self-esteem. The children develop a good sense of belonging and they move around with ease and confidence. They are able to make decisions as they choose what to play with and what they would like for snack. The children enjoy being with the childminder and they thrive on her interaction and attention.

The childminder has developed a portfolio that includes written policies and procedures. This is shown and discussed with parents at the introduction meeting helping to forge good working relationships from an early stage. The childminder has devised questionnaires for parents to help her monitor the service she provides. The questionnaires include very positive comments from parents about the service provided, levels of care and activities afforded. Effective systems are in place in relation to keeping parents informed about their children's developmental progress and daily activities.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

All persons over the age of 16 have been vetted, helping to protect minded children. The childminder is a committed and enthusiastic childcare practitioner. She has a high regard for children's well-being as she attends training to further develop her childcare practices. This needs to be continued to further develop the service provided for the children. The childminder has a valid first aid certificate ensuring she has up to date knowledge of what to do in the event of an accident or minor injury.

The record of children's attendance is up to date and shows that ratios are maintained to promote children's care, learning and play. The childminder organises space, time and resources well to effectively meet children's needs.

The childminder has developed comprehensive policies and procedures and these work well in practice to positively promote children's health, safety, enjoyment, achievement and ability to make a positive contribution. All required documentation is in place. It is well organised for easy reference and securely stored to maintain confidentiality.

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 a recommendation was agreed in relation to documentation. The childminder has obtained written parental consent for the administration of medication and this is retained along with the signed record of medication. This ensures all relevant documentation is in place and that children's welfare is promoted.

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):

- continue to attend training courses to develop the service provided for children.

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