

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY266474
Inspection date	29 November 2007
Inspector	Shirley Maynard
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 since October 2003. She lives with her husband and two children who are aged three and six years. They live in a house on the outskirts of Great Harwood, close to local schools and shops. The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of four children under eight years at any one time. There are currently three children on roll all of whom attend on a part time basis.

The facilities available for childminding include the whole of the ground floor, with toilet and hand washing facilities available at this level. There is a secure outdoor play area. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association and the local childminding network. She has an appropriate level 3 qualification in childcare.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

Children stay healthy because the childminder understands and follows mostly appropriate hygiene practices. The children play in an organised and clean environment, where they learn

from an early age the importance of positive hygiene practices. For example, children remove their shoes when they enter the home to minimise their chances of playing on dirty floors. They learn to wash their hands when finished in the bathroom and their understanding is enhanced by posters displaying the correct hand washing procedure. However, children use a communal hand towel and this is not sufficient to prevent the spread of infection.

The childminder holds an up to date first aid certificate enabling her to deal effectively with minor accidents. This, together with prior consent to take a child to hospital in an emergency, means the childminder can act without delay. Furthermore, there are sound systems in place for recording accidents and the administration of medication which are signed by parents. As a result, children are well protected.

Children are satisfactorily nourished as the childminder provides them with a mainly balanced diet which includes fresh produce, fruit and vegetables. They enjoy a snack of grapes and tangerine as they sit together at the table. Children are regularly offered drinks of either juice or milk. Furthermore, a small water cooler is available to the children, therefore they can monitor their own needs for a drink. The children enjoy regular activities which promote their physical development as they thoroughly enjoy regular walks to the park and the use of the outdoor equipment which includes wheeled toys and a small slide.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a welcoming and safe indoor and outdoor environment. They play both on the floor and at the table in an environment that is organised to allow them to play without restriction. They make choices from suitable and appropriate resources which develop their independence as they chose from role play, books, jigsaws and construction. Children develop a sense of belonging as their photographs and pictures are attractively displayed on the walls.

The childminder has taken positive steps to reduce risks to children in her home. For example, a fireguard is in place to protect children from the gas fire and a safety gate prevents children from accessing areas not suitable for them. Children's safety is further promoted because the childminder actively involves them in practising the emergency evacuation procedure. As a result, children are well informed of what to do in an emergency. Children are well supervised throughout the day both inside and outside. Furthermore, the childminder has recently undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment of all areas of the home to minimise potential risk. As a result, children's safety is appropriately fostered.

Children's welfare is adequately protected as the childminder has an understanding of her role in child protection. She demonstrates a clear understanding of the signs and symptoms of possible abuse. A recently updated policy is in place and this is shared with parents prior to a child starting at the setting. However, the childminder is not fully confident in the procedures for referring concerns to the appropriate agencies.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are provided with a varied range of activities which meet their needs because the childminder has an informal plan which follows their lead and interests. The childminder uses her knowledge and understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework to provide a balance

of free play, creative and structured activities, for example, using scissors to cut old greetings cards which helps to develop their fine motor skills. The childminder makes observations of the children, collects examples of creative work and uses photographs to record their achievements.

Children are developing their confidence and esteem by having positive relationships with the childminder. She interacts with them in a gentle and positive manner, listening to them and valuing what they say. She gets down on the floor to support and play with them, for example, helping to complete jigsaws. The children are learning as they discuss what they are doing, counting the cars in the garage or playing 'pretend' with the role play kitchen as they discuss the topping for the pizza. They chatter to each other and the childminder as they sit and play and enjoy each other's company.

The childminder takes children to the park most days. They also thoroughly enjoy regular visits to the library and the local toddler group where they have good opportunities to play and socialise with other children. Older children have the opportunity to relax after school. They are also able to complete homework or select resources from the range of age appropriate equipment, for example, mark making, games and books.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

All children are welcomed into the setting, being valued and respected. This is due to the childminder's good understanding of equality of opportunity for children and anti-discriminatory practice. She has a written policy in place and is aware of the need to ensure all children participate in the activities provided. There are currently no children attending with a learning difficulty or disability but the childminder is aware of the importance of liaising with parents to ensure any need is promptly identified and children sensitively encouraged. The children learn about diversity from the good resources provided including play people, books and puzzles.

Children are encouraged to be polite and well behaved. They have clear boundaries and house rules which the older children contribute to. These include being kind to everyone, not hurting each other and no jumping on the furniture. As a result, children are starting to play harmoniously together, share the resources and take turns. They receive regular praise and encouragement from the childminder who acts as a positive role model by always saying 'please' and 'thank you' to the children.

The childminder fosters positive relationships with parents as she shares good quality information, policies and procedures with them. She makes time to discuss issues with parents and uses newsletters and questionnaires to enable them to be fully aware of her childcare practice, which contributes significantly to children's well-being. Furthermore, the childminder has good understanding of her role if she received any complaints from parents.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children play and learn in an environment that is organised to meet their needs with room to move freely and choose from good quality toys and equipment. These are stored safely and readily accessible to assist children in making choices. Daily routines are in place and the childminder has a flexible approach to responding to children's individual needs. As a result, children feel secure, valued and confident.

Children positively benefit from the childminder's clear commitment to her own development. She regularly attends training in early years to develop her knowledge and skills and has an appropriate level 3 qualification in childcare. As a result, children's play and learning opportunities are maximised. Children's needs are well met as the childminder has all the required documentation in place. These are well written and work in practice to promote children's health, safety, enjoyment and ability to make a positive contribution, for example, working with parents and equal opportunities. This documentation is securely stored and available for inspection.

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 increase resources which provide positive images of disability. This has been successfully addressed. Children have access to a range of resources, for example, books, small world equipment and jigsaws, which positively reflect disability. As a result, children's understanding of equality of opportunity is fully addressed.

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):

- improve hand washing practices in order to prevent the spread of infection
- improve knowledge of local child protection procedures in order to effectively protect 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