

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	EY278123
Inspection date	16 November 2007
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 2004. She lives with her husband and three children aged two, four and eight years in Winsford, Cheshire. The whole 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 four children at any one time and is currently minding one child under five on a full time basis and to children after school on a part time basis. The family have a pet cat.

The childminder is an active member of the local childminding group and is a member of the National Childminding Association. (NCMA)

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children's physical development is promoted well. They look forward to and enjoy their walks in the community and visits to parks and parent and toddler groups where they experience a

variety of activities, including climbing and balancing equipment to develop their large physical skills. They learn to develop a healthy lifestyle through daily outdoor play. Children join in activities enthusiastically because the childminder has a very good understanding of how young children learn and progress. Her experience enhances all aspects of the appropriate types of activities and levels of support given to children. She motivates them and gives them confidence as they try out new skills.

Children show a good understanding of the importance of hygiene and personal care as the childminder ensures they routinely wash their hands after playing in the garden or using the toilet. The nappy changing routine is followed well by the childminder. These measures help to protect children's good health. They are protected well through good recording of accidents and medication administered and the procedure for sickness and emergencies. The childminder has a current first aid certificate. This helps to meet children's needs in the event of an accident or emergency.

Children are well nourished and are developing an awareness of the importance of healthy eating. They look forward to and enjoy their snacks and meals, which are nutritious and healthy. The wishes of parents and children are taken into account ensuring that their individual dietary needs are promoted. They are offered regular drinks further promoting their good health and development.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a highly motivating environment where safety is a high priority. Good 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 and walks in the local community.

Children show a high level of independence as they select toys and activities from a wide range of very good quality toys and equipment which meet safety standards. The childminder is secure 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 and discusses the procedure with the children, this enhances children's safety. The childminder has knowledge and understanding of child protection in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board procedures. She has a written procedure which is clear and concise, however, the written policy on an uncollected child does not include the full procedure and parents have not been made aware of these.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children are very happy, settled and relaxed in the company of the childminder. They are motivated, eager and actively participate in and enjoy the activities and experiences offered to them. Children are extremely confident and self assured because of the excellent support and encouragement they receive from the childminder, for example, as they are involved in

playing in the ball pool and other activities including the childminder in their play. Children are confident and relate very well to each other. The childminder is enthusiastic uses her experience to plan an extensive range of opportunities and activities. Children benefit from the childminder's ability to balance her time interacting with children effectively and at appropriate moments, for example, leaving children to develop their own fun as they sort the cars and use the garage. Younger children benefit from the childminder's understanding of the 'Birth to three matters' framework. All children have well planned opportunities which extend their skills through the childminder's clear understanding of the how children learn and develop.

Children access a wide range of stimulating activities and experiences both within and away from the childminding setting which support the growth of children's development across all areas. During the inspection, children were highly motivated and actively engrossed in playing with balls, construction, cars, lorries and tractors. They use a variety of equipment, toys and different areas of the available space to create their fun. Access to a wide range of multi-cultural resources and themes help children understand diversity. Children are animated and excited when adults present take an interest and listen carefully to what they are saying and join in with them in developing their play. Access to very good resources and interaction from the childminder sustains children's interest and enables them to successfully develop their play.

Children are offered an extensive range of different play experiences and activities on a regular basis which enables them to learn new skills and consolidate existing ones. For example, children attend other child-centred settings away from the childminding premises. These encourage the development of social skills and physical skills.

Children develop very good large and small physical skills through planned activities both within and away from the childminding setting. They practise climbing and balancing skills during outdoor play, movement and hand eye coordination skills during indoor activities, such as craft activities, using construction equipment and programmable toys. Children experience the wider community as they play outdoors, go for walks, visit local parks and other places of interest.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children gain an exceptionally good awareness of their local environment and the diversity of the wider world through a good selection of resources and activities that promote positive images. All children are valued and respected as individuals, are included in the activities provided and their individual needs are well met.

Children's behaviour is very good. The childminder is highly motivated in meeting children's needs and in particular to behaviour management. A clear and consistent approach is adopted which takes into account children's different stages of development. Children respond well and as a result they show a growing awareness of right and wrong. They are settled and make themselves at home; showing confidence as they choose activities and independently select their drinks and snacks.

Children benefit from a good and very positive partnership with parents. They are cared for in accordance with their parents' wishes. The childminder completes written daily diary books for the very young which are given to parents each day and daily discussion for the older children are shared with parents, ensuring that they are kept well informed about their child's day. The childminder provides parents with written information on her policies and procedures and

arranges regular review meetings with parents to discuss their child's care and education. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children feel at home in the welcoming atmosphere and at ease because the childminder is well organised. She skilfully plans the daily and weekly activities. This means that children feel secure and confident in their surroundings, initiating and extending their own play and learning. The good use of indoor and outside space maximises play opportunities for children. Good risk assessments and planning of activities and routines help to keep children safe and enables them to make good progress in all areas of their development. Children benefit from the varied play experiences provided, which give them opportunities to extend their learning potential.

All relevant documentation, policies and procedures are good and used effectively to promote the welfare, care and learning of children. The childminder is very confident and her care and teaching is highly motivating through her enthusiasm and good practice which supports children's progress and development. She has attended many training courses and is extending her knowledge and understanding of early years through future training programmes.

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 was asked to ensure that written permission from parents is obtained before administering medication and ensure the procedure in the event of an allegation of abuse being made against you or others whilst the child is on your care is known. The childminder has devised a system which ensures that parents permission is obtained before administering medication and she has attended a child protection training course. These measures enhance children's safety and well-being.

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):

- ensure the written procedure for an uncollected child includes the whole procedure and is shared with parents.

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