

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number EY266921
Inspection date 11 October 2007
Inspector Jane Pamela Berry

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 satisfactory. 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 July 2003. She lives with her husband and two children in the Woolston area of Warrington.

A designated playroom is available for childminding purposes along with a kitchen/dining room and associated facilities on the ground floor. A fully enclosed garden is available for outdoor play.

The childminder is registered for four children and she currently has two children on roll. She is a member of the National Childminding Association. She lives within walking distance of shops, schools and parks.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is satisfactory.

The children benefit from the childminder being a qualified first aider, who is able to administer basic treatment in an emergency situation. However, due to an oversight written permission

has not been sought for medical attention being accessed in an emergency. This is a breach of a National Standard. The childminder has, however, consulted parents verbally regarding this matter. This has resulted in a satisfactory, rather than a good outcome in this area.

Children learn the importance of personal hygiene and establish healthy living principles from the good routines and high levels of support from the childminder. The environment is clean and hygienic, with potential hazards controlled, such as pets being kept in separate areas from those used by children. Also good personal hygiene and effective food preparation and storage minimises the risk of cross-infection being transmitted.

The children learn to drink plenty of water and to eat foods that are nutritious, such as yoghurt and plenty of fresh fruit. They have well balanced meals such as pasta, salads and vegetables. Some children are reluctant to eat healthy meals and the childminder offers them encouragement and good levels of support to do so. Meal times are social occasions where children interact with one another and the childminder. This makes mealtimes fun and enjoyable with meals being well presented, and in ample quantities for their needs.

Children have good access to exercise daily on walks to the park, where they feed the ducks and play on the large equipment. They also have access to slides and swings, and play robust games in the childminders garden.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are learning how to keep safe from discussions with the childminder about road safety and about 'people who help us'. For example, they access visits from the air rescue ambulance service to local schools. The children know about safety and remind one another about danger, such as when children stand on furniture, they are warned about the risks and consequences. The childminder intervenes sensitively and encourages the children to sit nicely as dinner is served at the low table.

The childminder assesses most risks and supervises children very well both indoors and outside. However, fire practices are not conducted regularly enough. The childminder identified this, for herself, as an area for further improvement during the course of the inspection. This demonstrates her ability to reflect and build on her practice, which is very encouraging.

The children's welfare is safeguarded as the Local Safeguarding Children's Board procedures are followed in the event of a concern arising. This also applies to professional or allegations made against household members. The childminder has clear policies that are shared with parents on admission. In addition, a written policy is available for touching. This details the importance of emotional development and the management of personal care. This is secure practice which is to be commended.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy attending the childminder's home. They are developing well with her support and guidance. The children have many good opportunities to experiment and explore the environment. They make pictures from leaves and other natural materials. As they design their own art work the childminder talks to them about seasonal changes, such as the colours changing

ready for them falling from the trees in Autumn. This helps children to learn about the world and to take an interest in nature.

Children complete jigsaw puzzles and use their imagination as they dress up in costumes pretending to be Snow White or a princess. They like to bake cakes and manipulate shapes out of play dough. This enables them to develop their small motor skills. They go on outings to places of interest such as to a farm, where they feed the baby lambs and ride on a tractor. They are interested in recycling materials and know how to do this, using the coloured bins for different types of household waste. The children have also grown cress from seeds, which they show proudly, when the childminder takes their photograph.

Younger children are learning good language skills as they practice sounds like 'Chicken' as they eat their sandwiches. They also experiment with language when handling books and telling stories, for example, about the 'Rainbow Fish'. They enjoy songs and music and have learned to share a wider selection of action rhymes whilst visiting the local playgroup.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is satisfactory.

The children are learning about different lifestyles from activities and discussions with the childminder. She actively encourages them to learn sign language through rhymes and activity songs. They also benefit from opportunities to celebrate festivals, for example, the children thoroughly enjoy making paper dragons for the Chinese New Year. The childminder has introduced discussion about people who live in hot countries and about disability, but she is not aware of any support available locally to help her to extend the range of positive images available. That being said, outcomes for children are generally satisfactory.

The children behave well and cooperate with one another easily. They remind one another about the rules, such as safe practices being followed. Parents are made welcome and are pleased with the services they receive. They have access to information on what their children are doing whilst in the care of the childminder, in the form of photographs. However, this is not developed to maximum effect by making links to the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Also, the childminder has a limited understanding of her legal responsibilities regarding the complaints legislation. This is a breach of a regulation. Although, during the course of the inspection the childminder accessed the relevant literature, in order to update herself accordingly. As there have been no complaints to date, this has not had any impact on children or parents.

Organisation

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder ensures all adults in the household are suitable to be around children and supervises the children well. She has effective routines that support young children's emotional security and her relationships are well established. She maintains attendance registers appropriately.

The childminder's documentation is mostly organised and her knowledge is reasonably sound. It was noted that parental consent had not been obtained for taking photographs. The childminder explained that consent had been given verbally, therefore, any impact on children has been minimised. The childminder agreed to rectify this without delay. Overall, the provider meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure documentation was securely in place for transporting children in a vehicle and to build on children's experiences of inclusion. The children now benefit from activities that help them to learn about the wider world, including disability and they also attend sing-along sessions using sign language.

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 satisfactory. 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):

- develop children's understanding of what to do in an emergency situation, such as practising fire evacuations more frequently
- develop the complaint's processes in line with current legislation
- request written parental consent for photographs and the seeking of advice or treatment in an emergency.

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