



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY241653
<b>Inspection date</b>	28 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Gyatri Rupal
<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 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 February 2003. He lives with his wife and two children aged 9 and 11 years in Luton, Bedfordshire. The whole ground floor and a bed room is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play. The childminder walks to take and collect children from the local school.

The childminder is registered to care for six children under eight years at any one time. He also has employment outside the home and helps his wife with her childcare who is also a registered childminder. Currently his wife is minding four children under the age of eight years. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The family have two cats as pets.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a varied, worthwhile range of physical activities which help to promote their good health. They keenly participate in free-play and organised activities on a daily basis. For example, they play team games, cricket, rounders, use range of large and small equipment in the home and garden. Children also enjoy various out door activities such as swimming, walking to school and parks. Children understand the importance of good hygiene and personal care through effective routines set by the childminder. Older children learn the importance of good hygiene through their daily routine and the childminder's good guidance. Their clear understanding of why they must wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating reduces the risk of cross-contamination.

Children benefit from a healthy diet. Their individual dietary needs are discussed with parents and respected. The childminder encourages parents to provide healthy balance meals to their children. Children have healthy nutritious meals at the childminder's home. They have fresh fruit for their snacks and drinks through out the day. Older children learn the benefit of healthy food within their daily activities and discussions with the childminder. Younger children understand they have to finish their lunch first before they can have their sweet pudding. They are developing self-confidence as they feed themselves with a spoon.

Children are protected from infection because the childminder has a sound understanding of children's health care matters. He implements most policies and procedures effectively which promotes good health and children's well-being. For example, he holds a valid first-aid certificate so that he can treat minor accidents. All accidents and medication records are maintained and signed by the parents. However, parents consent for emergency medical treatment is not obtained which can delay child receiving urgent medical treatment.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a very clean, safe and well-maintained environment. They feel secure and safe as they are fully supported by the childminder's good understanding of balancing freedom and setting safe limits. The good organisation of well-maintained toys and equipment means children can safely access a wide range of play resources easily from boxes. This allows children to trust and explore new experiences.

Children are encouraged to learn a sense of risk, danger and how to protect themselves from harm through daily activities. The safety rules are displayed in the home and reinforced by the childminder to remind children about keeping themselves safe. For example, children are made aware of dangers when cooking, they learn green cross code when walking to school with the childminder. There are some excellent procedures in place to ensure children are safe at all times, and the childminder regularly carries out an effective risk assessment of the premises. He ensures that children are aware of the fire evacuation procedures which are practised regularly. Children are protected from harm as the childminder has an understanding knowledge

of child protection issues and procedures. He also ensures the parents are made aware of the adults' duty to protect children.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are settled well at the childminder's house. They explore their environment both inside and outside the house. They are developing their self-esteem and become independent as they choose between a wide range of toys and activities which appeal to them. For example, children felt very happy when they managed to put some right shapes in the shape sorter and made different noises of animals when playing with the childminder.

Children's individual needs are met well as they receive one to one attention from the childminder. The childminder plans daily activities to meet the individual child's needs. Younger children are developing their language due to the childminder's appropriate interaction. They develop their mathematical thinking through their daily routine. For example, they talk about colours and shapes when playing with toys and count objects inside and outside the home. Older children enjoy exploring a range of activities which contribute to their creativity, such as listening and moving to music, art and craft activities, dressing up and model making.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are valued and respected as individuals. Their individual needs are met well as the childminder works closely with the parents to ensure he follows their home routine. The childminder is aware that some children may have learning difficulties and is proactive ensuring that appropriate action can be taken when such a child is identified. Children are familiar with the daily routine and respond quickly to changes through the day. They feel a sense of belonging as they independently select their own activities and play resources. They are confident when they ask for what they require. For example, a one-year-old child wanted to play with musical toys and pointed out the toys box, to the childminder. Children learn about the diversity through a range of planned activities, outings to local places of interests and play resources reflecting positive images of culture, gender and disability.

Children benefit from the positive partnership the childminder has established with the parents. The parents are kept well informed about most of the policies and procedures. However, they are not informed about updated complaints procedure and some of their required written consents are not obtained which can effect the childminder's partnership with the parents. There is a an appropriate system in place to inform parents of their children's progress, development and daily activities through written feedback and daily discussions.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are happy and comfortable due to the childminder's appropriate organisation. They are confident and secure when they initiate their own play. They have safe access to a range

of play resources and activities both inside and outside the home which promote their learning. Children's welfare and safety is promoted as the childminder has organised a system to store records and documentation which is used in most areas to promote the care, welfare and learning of each child. Records are shared with parents and they can access these at any time. Regular information about their child is shared this contributes to a trusting relationship which impacts positively on the children. However, the system for keeping required records is not effective as some of the necessary parents' consents are not in place which can adversely affect the child's well-being and the childminder's partnership with parents. Children are protected as the childminder ensures people who have access to the children are suitable and the parents' permission is in place for the people who can collect the child. Overall, all children's needs are met.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **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 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):

- ensure that all appropriate parents' written consents are kept for all the children and parents are informed about updated complaints procedure
- obtain parent's written consent for emergency medical treatment.

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)