



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	256616
<b>Inspection date</b>	24 March 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Christina Jane Howkins-Griffiths
<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 outstanding. 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 1993. She lives with her husband in East Dereham. The whole of the ground floor area and one upstairs bedroom is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for 6 children under 8 years and is currently minding 5 children under 8 years, all of whom attend on a part time basis. The childminder walks to local school and pre-school to take and collect children, and meets regularly with other childminders.

She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children's health is extremely well promoted as the childminder takes many positive steps and encourages the children to begin to take responsibility of meeting their own health needs. The childminder has an impressive knowledge of environmental health issues having gained information from the local Environmental Health Office. Robust procedures are in place to prevent the spread of infection and appropriate measures taken when children are ill so that their health needs are met. A detailed procedure is in place that has been shared with parents and they are kept up to date through regular discussion about any illness issues.

Children enjoy excellent opportunities to experience physical activity and develop their skills. The childminder plans an extensive range of activities that enable children to develop their confidence on wide range of equipment that provides challenge. For example, encouraging children to practice walking, offering challenge and encouragement to increase skills and confidence. Children learn to lead a healthy lifestyle because they have regular exercise and young children's sleep patterns are well known and respected. The childminder completely understands the children's need to have regular exercise and fresh air as well as time to relax, and she takes action to make sure that this is part of the daily routine.

Children are well nourished and have many opportunities to learn about healthy eating because the childminder provides children with regular drinks and snacks that are nutritious and complies with their dietary and religious needs. Environmental Health information is used effectively to make sure that food is stored, prepared and served correctly and to give guidance for a balanced diet. The childminder encourages children to learn about healthy living through a range of inspiring activities that develop the children's understanding of what foods are good for them.

Younger children are developing very well physically and emotionally. They are active and are becoming increasingly independent, acquiring control over their bodies and new physical skills. They are learning to express their needs and are beginning to meet those needs themselves, they are encouraged at each stage, for example a potty training poster in the toilet means that their development is recognised and valued. As they grow the children become more aware of their own bodies and develop an awareness of others and their needs. The childminder has excellent understanding of the needs of children and skilfully provides appropriate activities and resources to support children's physical and emotional development.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are safe and very well cared for in premises that are safe, secure and suitable for their purpose because the childminder has a thorough process for risk assessment which is carried out meticulously. She is interested in and committed to health and safety and makes a concerted effort to obtain information and uses this effectively to guarantee the children's safety. The children have immediate access to a comprehensive range of facilities that successfully promotes

their development both indoors and outside. The garden is used throughout the year and allows a flexible range of activities to take place with children of a variety of ages.

The children are offered an extensive range of equipment that is suitable and safe. Well organised, suitable storage invites the children to make choices from the toys and materials available. They are all of suitable design and condition, well maintained and conform to safety standards. The environment is enhanced by posters, samples of the children's artwork, models are displayed encouraging the children's ownership of the premises and raising their self esteem.

Safety is promoted within the home and on outings and ensures proper precautions are taken to prevent accidents. Children are learning to keep themselves safe because the childminder encourages children to begin to understand about safety issues both within the setting and outside. For example, the childminder has books that support the learning of road safety and this is reinforced when the children are walking to school each day. There is a thorough process for fire safety, the childminder has taken action to promote the children's awareness and ensure their safety in the event of a fire, or other evacuation of the premises.

Children are well protected because childminder has a commendable approach to child protection, she fully understands and is confident about her responsibility. Appropriate procedures have been put into practice when necessary, and her knowledge has been enhanced by a recent training course to provide the children with better protection.

The children are able to investigate and explore their surroundings safely. They begin to understand there are rules and boundaries that keep them safe. They develop an increasing understanding of how to keep themselves safe and have self control in order that they don't hurt others. The childminder ensures that the children always use appropriate and safe equipment and encourages them to become aware of their own safety and that of others. The children are easily visible in all areas of the premises, including the garden, and the childminder moves about to ensure that she can see them to supervise their movements and meet their needs.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Useful information is gathered about the children and the excellent settling-in procedures ensure that children are well known when the arrangement commences and this helps their needs to be met properly and competently. The childminder offers flexible care tailored to each child with consistent, daily routines in place. She has an exceptional knowledge and extensive experience of child development which enables her to offer appropriate activities and play opportunities for children of a variety of ages.

Children are confident, independent and developing their self-esteem. They ask questions and respond to new challenges by questioning and they use their own initiative. All children have their individual needs met and are developing a considerable range of knowledge and skills because the childminder provides exciting activities and play opportunities to interest them. The childminder adeptly challenges the children and praises achievements with positive comments. The childminder has planned activities to visit local people of interest including the

doctors surgery, dentists and fire station, where the children can experience many first hand learning opportunities and learn about their community.

Children begin to distinguish right from wrong and form positive relationships because the childminder has consistent boundaries and supports them appropriately including gentle reminders about sharing with each other and turn taking. She is an exceptional role model with her calm and caring approach, this influences the children's interaction with one another across the age range, for example the older ones to show care and concern for the younger ones and help them when they can.

The childminder uses the 'Birth to three matters' framework. Younger children are encouraged to become vocal, for example through imitation and begin to use appropriate language and gestures to communicate their needs. For example, the childminder uses appropriately selected television programmes to support the children's communication skills through sign language and reinforces this with additional activities and discussion. Older children communicate their thoughts, ideas and experiences, using language appropriately. The children are all encouraged to explore and investigate, making good use of the space available, they are able to make their needs known easily with the childminder who is constantly ready and able to respond.

The children's development is skilfully supported through positive interaction from the childminder who sits with the children and takes part in their activities. Interaction with the children is very natural and encouraging. Using questions such as 'How many people are on the bus? Are there any more? Where are they?' she introduced mathematical concepts such as numbers, more than, less than, position and space in a fun, subtle way that engaged the child and kept her attention.

Evidence of the children's achievements is displayed in the premises, their art work and models are on show, demonstrating that the children are valued and encouraging them to be involved in further activities. The children are encouraged to explore and investigate their surroundings and learn about their environment through daily walks to shops, school, library and play parks.

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

The provision is outstanding.

Children are developing superb relationships with adults and other children in a setting where the childminder works in collaboration with parents and carers to meet individual needs. All of the children are fully included in the life of the setting they feel a sense of belonging, work harmoniously with others and make choices and decisions. These all contribute to developing good self-esteem and respect for others. The childminder ensures that she knows all children well and that they are provided with equality of opportunity. She ensures that there is no bias in her practice in relation to gender race or disability and is pro-active when supporting children with identified needs. Children are developing an understanding of the wider society because the childminder has an excellent range of resources and toys that show positive images of people from within our diverse society. For example, a selection of posters are on display in the conservatory that show a range of images and promote discussion about diversity.

Children understand responsible behaviour and learn about boundaries because the childminder is able to manage a wide range of children's behaviour. The childminder deals with behaviour consistently in a way that is proportionate to each child's level of understanding and maturity. The childminder creates an environment that encourages children to behave well through consistent house rules that are discussed with parents.

Children's needs are being fully met because the childminder works successfully with parents and carers. The childminder has an excellent understanding of the importance of working with parents and of how this benefits the child. The exchange of daily information takes place at arrival and collection times, and an activity scrap book for each child is used to record significant activities that each child has been involved in. The childminder has produced a valuable information booklet about herself and the care that she offers which parents are encouraged to read through at the initial visits. This includes some very positive feedback and references from parents. The written information provided to parents is high quality and comprehensive covering factual details such as who lives in the house and what qualifications the childminder has obtained. It includes her policies and ethos on child care matters. It is an accurate reflection of the provision, designed to improve the parents understanding of what the childminder does, how she does it and how their relationship will improve the care for the children.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is outstanding.

Children are cared for in a wonderful setting where the childminder is experienced, knowledgeable, qualified. Policies and procedures are effectively implemented to protect children and promote their development. The childminder and her husband have appropriate checks and children would never be left unsupervised with adults that do not have appropriate clearances. Attendance at a range of training and workshops has enhanced the childminders skills and she is supportive of other childminders with whom she meets regularly.

The premises are presented in an inviting and safe way, maintaining the look of a family home.

The childminder has extremely effective systems for maintaining documentation, she is highly organised. Policies and procedures and the written information shared with parents cover a wide range of issues, incorporates all of the required documentation and is available for inspection. Daily updates with the parents supplement the written records, ensuring that the children receive a consistently high standard of care.

Overall the needs of the children are being met.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection it was recommended that the childminder increase her resources and play provision to include further items that promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. She has been able to purchase a good range of additional resources and play equipment to improve the children's awareness.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since the last inspection. 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 outstanding. 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**

No recommendations for improvement are made because the quality and standards of care are outstanding.

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)