



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY136591
<b>Inspection date</b>	26 April 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Alexandra Brouder

<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 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 2002. She lives with her husband and two sons of 18 and 14 years, in a house in Leicester. The house is close to a shopping area and two parks. The ground floor of the property, the bathroom on the first floor and rear garden are accessible to the children.

The childminder has completed the Certificate in Childminding Practice and has also attended many other short courses to support her practice. She is a member of the National Childminding Association and is part of a Childminder Network.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's personal health is developing well. They wash their hands after toileting and before snacks and meals. The childminder ensures that she is a positive role model so that all children may learn by example. Although the towel that children use is changed daily, they all share the same one. This increases the risk of cross-infection. Children have regular opportunities to enjoy physical play, for example, walking up to the local school each day or the local park. Children understand good health and hygiene practices, because they are discussed and encouraged through the daily routine. Children's good health is promoted in the main as there is a clear sickness policy that is shared with parents at the time of placement. Although appropriate records are maintained for accidents, incidents and medication, the childminder does not always record these accurately which impacts on children's well-being.

Children are well nourished, they enjoy a healthy fruit option at snack times, and the childminder talks to the children about the need for a healthy diet. Drinks are regularly available so that children do not become thirsty. Children's social skills are developed as they sit together at meal times and good manners are encouraged. Children's health and dietary needs are met well because the childminder gathers information from parents regarding allergies and preferences.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled in the welcoming environment. They are able to make free choices from the adequate resources, enabling them to develop their independence and decision making. Children use the varied range of toys confidently and with interest. They are able to play safely and freely, because all of the toys are of suitable quality and are checked regularly by the childminder.

Children's safety is promoted well in the areas of the house that they use through the use of socket covers and locks on exits. Various policies are in place that protects the children on outings and the childminder has written consent from parents in order for her to be able to take them out and about. She talks to the children about keeping safe indoors and outdoors, and regularly practises her fire drill, thus developing children's own awareness of keeping safe. Children's welfare is safeguarded as the childminder has a good understanding of child protection issues and reporting procedures.

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

The provision is good.

Children are happy and settled. They show an interest in their play and become engaged in all activities. A well planned range of varied activities, that take into account children's interests, are provided, such as painting, messy play and outings to places of interest. As a result children are stimulated to learn and develop their physical, social, emotional and intellectual skills well.

The childminder interacts well with the children and uses appropriate praise and encouragement, when they are playing, which fosters their self-esteem. Children are able to choose what they want to do and when, which promotes their independence and decision making skills. For example, a child was able to do some sticking as the childminder had out the resources to enable her to do this. The childminder takes into account the needs of younger children and develops ideas through the use of relevant guidance, such as the 'Birth to three matters' framework.

Children relate well to the childminder and are encouraged to play with all equipment. Cooperative play is encouraged through the use of board games and organised activities on the park. Children are confident in their play. Appropriate support is offered when necessary to ensure that children learn how to play with the equipment, and to ensure that they are challenged effectively. For example, the childminder gets down on their level and joins in with their activity, thus making them feel comfortable and secure.

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

The provision is good.

Children are fully included in the life of the setting and as a result their self-esteem is fostered. Children's needs are well met and they receive consistent care. The childminder provides useful information for parents in the form of policies and procedures, as well as verbally. She has regular communication with them and has just begun to complete diaries for children to ensure that all aspects of children's needs and care can be monitored effectively. This enables the children's needs to be met and to feel a sense of belonging. Children develop an understanding of the wider world through visits to local temples and through the use of books. All children have equal access to the resources that are on offer. Children with special needs are likely to feel included and positive steps are taken to meet their individual needs. The childminder has extended her knowledge in this area through training.

Children learn how to behave and work well with others, as there are effective procedures in place. For example, the childminder discusses with children when their behaviour is inappropriate and uses 'time out' to ensure that they can think about their behaviour and calm down. She works closely with parents to reinforce methods. Children are praised and encouraged frequently at the setting which promotes their self-esteem and gives them confidence in their abilities.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are very happy, settled and comfortable in the environment and have a good relationship with the childminder. Their care is promoted and enhanced by the effective organisation of time, space and resources. The effective use of policies and procedures, which the childminder uses to assist her in her practice, promotes the welfare and safety of children. However, her accident and medication records have some gaps in the information recorded which impacts on children's welfare.

All children, regardless of age or ability, receive a good level of support from the childminder, which positively supports their care, learning and play. Overall the range of children's needs are met.

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

At the previous Children Act inspection the childminder was given three recommendations. She was asked to

provide evidence of valid car insurance, to obtain written parental permission for their child to be transported in a vehicle and to request written permission from parents for seeking emergency medical advice or treatment.

The childminder has improved her practice and therefore ensures children's safety; this has been done through the childminder keeping her valid car documentation with her childminding records, thus it is always available. She has obtained written consent from all parents for children to travel in her car. This ensures that she can keep children safe and protect their welfare, as well as working in partnership with all parents of minded children. All the parents have given the childminder written consent for her to seek emergency medical advice or treatment, which protects children's welfare and enables the childminder to react appropriately in an emergency.

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

There have been no complaints made to Ofsted since registration.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents which they can see on request. The complaint 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 that accident and medication records include the full name of the child concerned
- develop hand drying facilities to ensure that the chance of cross-infection is limited.

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)