



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	312642
<b>Inspection date</b>	08 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Lindsey Pollock
<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 a registered childminder since November 1992. She lives with her husband and her two teenage children.

There are currently six children under eight years on roll. The childminder also cares for her two grandchildren.

The family home is close to local amenities, primary schools and a leisure farm. The family has no pets. Children have the use of the whole of the ground floor and the large enclosed rear garden.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children thrive because they are cared for in a clean and warm environment where high priority is given to their health and wellbeing. The childminder applies good standards of hygiene to prevent the spread of infection. Young children benefit from stringent nappy changing procedures to prevent cross-infection. Children's awareness of good personal hygiene is developed from an early age and they quickly become independent in attending to their own personal care needs. They know to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet. Effective procedures are in place which ensure that toys and equipment are kept in a clean, hygienic condition. A written sickness policy is in place and is shared with parents prior to their child starting. This helps to protect the childminder and the other children attending the setting. The childminder has completed first aid and basic food hygiene training to promote children's health.

Children benefit from being offered varied, nutritional food at snack times. The childminder works closely with parents to provide food and drinks which appeal to children and meets their dietary needs. They enjoy fresh fruit and are encouraged to try different foods to promote their healthy growth and development.

The children are developing a positive approach to being active in the outdoors. They enjoy many outings, including walks to nature world and to the park where they use equipment to develop their large physical skills. Music and movement activities are provided to promote physical development and children participate enthusiastically when playing sleeping lions and head, shoulders, knees and toes.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a well organised, safe environment where they have room to move around freely and safely. Premises are warm and welcoming and are friendly to children. Furniture, equipment and toys are provided to promote children's development and welfare. All are kept clean, are in excellent condition and toys are presented invitingly to children at floor level. This successfully promotes their developing independence.

The childminder carries out risk assessments to identify hazards in her home. Good steps are taken to keep children safe. For example, equipment, such as cupboard safety catches, fire guards and safety gates, are always in place and the premises are secure. Good procedures are in place to ensure children are safe whilst being transported in vehicles. The childminder has identified a clear evacuation route and practises this regularly with the children to raise their awareness of what to do in an emergency.

Children are well protected. The childminder has completed up to date child protection training and fully understands her responsibilities with regards to child protection. All required procedures

and documentation regarding child protection are in place to enable her to safeguard children's welfare.

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

The provision is good.

Children are very settled and happy in the childminder's care. Routines and care which are consistent with home have been established to promote children's sense of security. Warm relationships are in place and the children approach the childminder confidently and with affection. They are obviously used to receiving lots of attention and continually want her to join in their games. She helps to raise children's self-esteem by providing encouragement, praise and by valuing what they have to offer.

The childminder is beginning to develop use of the 'Birth to three matters' framework when planning activities and play opportunities for younger children. These are purposeful and developmentally appropriate, resulting in children being motivated and interested. Children show great interest in what they do. Younger children are developing good concentration skills as they play with the cars, make pretend cups of tea using the role play equipment and look at the many interesting books. Children are taken on regular outings in the local community. They also attend 'sticky play sessions' at the library where they enjoy craft sessions and are frequent visitors to toddler groups. This enables children to become familiar with the local environment and to socialise with others. They love music and enthusiastically respond to their favourite songs by smiling and dancing.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder actively promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice resulting in all children feeling valued and free from discrimination. They learn to value differences through sensitive discussions and are receptive to the childminder's good role modelling. A satisfactory variety of resources, including interesting books, jigsaws and figures, are provided to help raise children's awareness of diversity. They are becoming aware of the wider society and nature through their regular outings in the local area. Although there are no children with special needs on roll, the childminder demonstrates a sound knowledge of the steps she would take to promote their welfare and development.

The childminder manages behaviour in a positive way. She gives lots of praise, encouragement and smiles to ensure children feel good about themselves. They are beginning to distinguish between right and wrong. For example, the childminder gently, but firmly, explains why they should tidy away toys before getting more out. They play happily with each other and older children understand about sharing and taking turns.

Trusting partnerships have been established with parents to help promote children's wellbeing, development and progress. Good quality documentation ensures that parents are well informed of the setting's policies and procedures. However, the complaints policy has not been updated and the poster advising parents of how to get in touch with Ofsted is not available. Detailed

verbal and written information is exchanged daily to keep parents fully informed of their child's care and learning. Settling in procedures are effective to ensure that children feel happy and secure in their environment and so that parents are reassured that their children will be well cared for.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The childminder has much experience of caring for a wide age range of children. She has completed many training sessions to develop her practice. All mandatory training requirements are met. The childminder demonstrates a secure understanding of the National Standards, and of her responsibilities for meeting these.

Children feel at home and relaxed in the well organised environment, resulting in them being confident to initiate and extend their own play and learning. The required ratios are maintained and time is organised effectively, allowing children to receive good support and care.

Good quality, well organised records and policies and procedures are in place. Most of them are kept appropriately. However, the system for recording administered medication does not allow confidentiality to be maintained or for parents to countersign the record. Although the childminder has verbal permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for their child, she has not obtained this in written form. Records are shared regularly with parents to keep them informed about the service, the activities and the care provided for their children. This contributes to continuity in the children's care.

Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

Since the last inspection the childminder has ensured that all sharp knives and implements are inaccessible to children to ensure their safety. Drinks are readily available so that children are not thirsty. Although the childminder has obtained verbal permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and treatment for their children, she has not obtained this in written form. A further recommendation has been made at this inspection.

## **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since April 2004 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):

- update the complaints policy in-line with changes to regulations and display the poster which tells parents how they can get in touch with Ofsted
- maintain confidentiality with regards to medication records and ensure parents countersign after administration
- obtain written permission from parents to seek emergency medical advice and 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)