



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	259913
<b>Inspection date</b>	12 June 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Sheena Gibson
<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 was registered in 1994. She lives with her extended family, which includes several children who are all over eight years, close to the city centre in Derby. She works alongside her sister, who is also a registered childminder, registered for the same number of children and who works from the same premises. The local shops, city centre, parks and schools are all close to the childminder's home. The whole of the downstairs area, with the exception of the front lounge, is used for childminding. Ground floor toilet facilities are also in this area.

The childminder is registered to provide care for five children under eight years at any one time. Currently there are seven children on roll who attend for a variety of sessions including before and after school. The total combined number of children on roll for both childminders is 13. The childminder is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children's good health is well supported as they are cared for in a warm, clean environment. They are beginning to learn the importance of good hygiene and personal care through routines and discussions. For example, they wash their hands after visiting the toilet and after playing outside. A clear written statement, on the contract, informs parents of the sickness exclusion procedure. As a result children's health is promoted as cross infection is minimised. Children are appropriately treated if they have an accident as the childminder has a suitable first aid certificate. Permission to seek emergency medical treatment if necessary, ensures that children's first aid needs are well met.

Children take part in a range of routines and activities that promote their physical well-being. They use a variety of equipment in the garden, which encourages them to exercise their bodies, for example, bikes, swing-ball and space hoppers. They use a suitably sized climbing frame that also develops such skills as co-ordination and balance. Younger children are active within the home, moving freely between the areas used. Children are well nourished, enjoying foods, such as fruit and vegetables as part of their daily snacks and meals. A drink of juice or water is available to them at all times, ensuring that they remain hydrated. Their emotional health is well supported. They engross themselves in activities about emotions such as happy and sad. The childminder's relationship with the children ensures that they are sufficiently secure to approach when they want some cuddles.

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

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a welcoming, spacious and secure environment. They are always within sight or hearing of the childminder. As a result, they are able to move around safely and independently, which increases their confidence. They have very suitable and comfortable places to play, rest and eat because the areas used for childminding are well organised to meet their needs. They enjoy accessing an ample supply of toys and play materials, suitable for their age and stage of development. These are of good quality and safely stored so that children can easily make their own choices. Strategically placed barriers are in place to assist in promoting children's safety, preventing free access to unregistered areas of the home. Outside the childminder ensures that, on sunny days, a shaded area is available for children to be protected from the sun.

Children's welfare is maintained when they are out of the home environment. Appropriate car seats ensure that they are safe when travelling in the car, permission for transporting children has also been developed. Children are beginning to learn about keeping themselves safe. For example, they have an understanding and can communicate their awareness to tidy up, preventing hazards, also knowing not to leave small pieces out because of the potential hazard to younger children. Although existing injury is not recorded, the childminder has a suitable understanding of her responsibilities regarding child protection and the procedures to follow if she is concerned about a child. This ensures children's welfare is adequately safe-guarded.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children benefit from a basic routine that includes meals, outdoor play, indoor play and rest times, which helps to meet their individual care needs. They are very comfortable with the childminder. They are settled and move confidently around the area used for minding, choosing toys. The environment is very child focussed and there is a wide variety of stimulating toys and activities for all ages. These offer a varied range of experiences. For example, younger children access shape sorters, pop up toys and other toys which stimulate senses. The childminder has an adequate knowledge of the stage of development of the children in her care and clearly has a warm relationship with them. She sits with them at floor level and interacts well, joining in with their play where appropriate. However, she is not considering maximising children's learning potential through using the 'Birth to three matters' framework to support her organisation of activities.

Children's language skills are suitably promoted. Conversations between the childminder and the children help to expand their confidence and vocabulary. For example, they chat about things that are familiar to them such as family. Effective interaction during a 'frog' game also supports intellectual skills as they discuss how frogs catch their food, which children thoroughly enjoyed. They giggled out loud whilst playing the game and enthused about counting how many ant's are left. A large amount of accessible books helps to encourage children to begin looking at books, supporting early reading skills. Number lines and letter posters are displayed around the room to support their understanding. Children's imagination is effectively fostered. There is a wide variety of games and activities that they participate fully in, which help to develop imagination. For example, dressing up, role play and small world play. Children co-operate very well together. They play multi-person games and know to take turns and share equally during imaginative play. Outside they play nicely with the sand and with the swing-ball, demonstrating that they are developing good social skills and an understanding of right from wrong.

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

The provision is good.

Children benefit from the good regard the childminder has for their individual needs. She knows them well and this enables her to offer activities that interest them. They are valued and are given time and attention to be listened to. Children develop their understanding of the wider world through access to a variety of activities, books and toys that promote positive images of our diverse society. Suitable systems are in place to include children with additional needs. The childminder has experience in this area and children are beginning to understand how they too can be involved in caring for people who have special needs or learning difficulties.

Children behave very well, helped by the childminder who is a good role model and has realistic expectations of individual children. They play co-operatively together, learning to share and take turns. Positive behaviour is re-enforced through praise, fostering their self-esteem. Children benefit from a good working relationship that the childminder has with their parents. Clear written records are maintained regarding children's needs. Written contracts are in place with parents and informal information is shared with regard to children's progress. Some effective

policies and procedures, which are shared with parents, promote consistency of care for the children.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in an environment that is organised well for its purpose, whilst at the same time maintaining a homely atmosphere. They benefit from the childminder's experience and enthusiasm for offering them good care. Whilst the childminder has undergone suitable checks she has not informed Ofsted of the fact that some members of the household are eligible for checks. Therefore, she is not complying with this aspect of the National Standards. Children are well supervised, profiting from the fact that she works with a co-minder. As a result they benefit from the good levels of attention she gives them, which helps them to feel secure and confident.

They enjoy being able to move around freely in the very spacious environment, which is well organised to enable them to play, rest and eat comfortably. Their well-being is supported through the good on-going sharing of information with parents. Records are detailed and some good information is shared with parents regarding the provision, promoting consistency of care for children. Much of the regulatory documentation is in place, although some records were not complete or available on the day of the inspection, including some permissions. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

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

At the last Children Act inspection the childminder was given a recommendation around: ensuring that details of minders, all persons living or employed on the premises and those in regular contact with children looked after are maintained. This has been adequately addressed. Details of household members are available in list form and this suitably supports children's welfare.

### **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, which the parents 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):

- ensure that any existing injury to children is recorded
- improve on the planning and organisation of activities for children that support their progress, considering the aspects of the 'Birth to three matters' framework
- ensure that all household members over the age of 16 years of age are subject to the appropriate checks
- make sure that all documentation is complete, including permissions for transporting children and ensure that permission for seeking emergency medical treatment is in place for all children.

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)