



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	209875
<b>Inspection date</b>	06 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Ann Winifred Harrison
<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 was registered in 1993. She lives with her husband and daughter aged 15 years. The whole of the ground floor, the upstairs bathroom and one bedroom are used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at anyone time and is currently minding one child under five years full time and one child under five years on a part time basis. She also minds four children before and after school. The childminder drives to local schools to take and collect children. The family has a dog and a hamster. She is a member of the National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is good.

Children are beginning to learn good personal hygiene through well organised activities and routines. They learn the importance of washing their hands after using the toilet and before eating. The children are protected from infection because the childminder is well informed about children's health care matters. For example, she practises good hygiene routines when changing children's nappies and a sick children's policy is in place that excludes infectious conditions. Children know they must wash their hands after touching the dog to prevent infection. Most documentation is in place including accident and medication records. However, permission to seek emergency medical treatment is not in place. This compromises children's health in the event of an emergency.

Children benefit from a healthy diet because the childminder works with the parents, to ensure their food is nutritious. Parents provide packed lunches and snacks and the childminder provides drinks throughout the day. The childminder adheres to parents wishes and any special dietary needs are met. Children learn about healthy eating through regular discussions with the childminder about which foods are good for them.

Children have access to a safe outdoor area where they enjoy playing in the fresh air. Indoor and outdoor activities help them develop control of their bodies, for example they are taken to the local park where they can practise their climbing skills. Young children are taken to a soft play centre where they play in ball pools and on slides.

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

The provision is good.

Children play in a safe and secure environment and are closely supervised at all times. They can independently access a good range of stimulating toys and equipment which are well-maintained by the childminder. Children's safety is appropriately promoted through the childminder's ability to implement necessary precautions both inside and outside the home. For example, she only uses parks where she knows she can see the children at all times and that the area is safe.

Risks in the home have been identified and minimised to allow children the freedom to move around the property in safety. The childminder uses safety equipment, such as socket covers and safety gates to ensure children are not exposed to hazard or injury. Children learn about safety issues such as crossing the road and staying safe when on outings through discussion with the childminder. They are regularly transported by car and the childminder uses appropriate car seats to ensure children's safety. Children learn how to keep themselves safe as they practise the emergency evacuation procedures.

Good security measures are in place, such as doors are kept locked and all callers are asked for identification. The childminder has effective procedures in place to ensure that children are protected and well-cared for. She has a range of procedures and documents in place to ensure

children's welfare is safeguarded and promoted including a policy on collection of children and procedures for taking children on outings. She has an understanding of child protection procedures and is aware of signs and symptoms of abuse and appropriate responses.

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

The provision is good.

Children are using resources and equipment that are stimulating and fun to maintain their interest. For example, children enjoy selecting activities, such as jigsaws, cars and construction. The childminder interacts positively with the children in their daily routines and play, encouraging them to learn shapes and colours and to count in everyday situations. Older children enjoy puzzle books and word searches to develop their spelling and vocabulary. The childminder is beginning to use the 'Birth to three matters' framework to provide activities for babies and young children. However she is not yet using it to inform her planning for children's next steps in learning to enhance their development.

Children discover the natural world as they visit the park and the farm. They talk about the animals they see and learn what they like to eat. Children are very settled at the childminder's house because they have good relationships with her, she knows them well and gives them lots of attention. This ensures children have a sense of well-being and trust. Babies routines are discussed with parents to promote continuity of care. Children's routines are well established and they know what happens at certain times of the day, such as having their mid morning snack. They are able to develop their imagination and independence by selecting their own activities and initiating their own play. They enjoy listening to stories and singing songs and rhymes which helps to develop their imagination and communication skills. Children are learning to socialise as the childminder takes them to a local toddler group.

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

The provision is good.

Children settle well in the childminder's home. They are valued and respected as individuals by the childminder. Their individual needs are met well as they follow their normal daily routines as discussed with parents. The childminder is aware of their likes, dislikes and any special needs. Children benefit from the effective working relationship the childminder has established with their parents. Verbal and written information about their welfare, activities and behaviour is exchanged on a daily basis.

Children are well-behaved and they are beginning to understand right from wrong. The childminder has a written behaviour policy which is shared with the parents. She has effective and consistent ways for dealing with children's behaviour, talking to children about any unwanted behaviour or distracting them to other activities. Children's good behaviour is encouraged by the childminder being positive and frequently praising the children for their good behaviour and achievements. Children shine with pride as they receive praise for completing jigsaws and building with construction toys. As a result children are confident and keen to show the childminder their efforts. Children are involved in making choices about their play and choosing resources, this fosters their independence skills.

The childminder has a good understanding of equal opportunities and children learn about the wider world through regular outings and resources that reflect positive images of other cultures. They learn about their environment through visiting the local shops and farms. Children are encouraged to play with all toys and resources regardless of gender. Currently, there are no children with learning difficulties or disabilities but the childminder has a good practical awareness of how to include and appropriately care for children's individual needs.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

Children's needs are met effectively through the good use of space and resources. Their care is enhanced by efficient and effective organisation. The childminder has a routine and prepares for each session with relevant age-appropriate resources. Children are able to access resources and toys to initiate their own play and learning because the childminder has organised toys and resources in children's reach.

A good range of policies and procedures are maintained and shared with parents. Documentation contributing to the children's well-being, health, safety and care are in place and are regularly reviewed, for example, the attendance register and parental consent for outings procedures. Individual records are completed for each child and written agreements are in place with each parent.

The childminder provides a good range and balance of activities for children of all ages, to enhance children's learning and development. Children benefit from a childminder who attends training courses to update her knowledge and skills. Parents are kept well-informed of their children's progress and activities through daily feedback. This contributes to continuity in the children's care. Overall the provision meets the needs of children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to obtain written parental permission to seek emergency medical treatment or advice and to keep an accurate record of existing injuries.

To address these issues the childminder now keeps a written record of any existing injuries that children may have when they arrive and these are discussed with parents. This ensures that children's welfare is protected. However the childminder has not yet obtained written parental permission for emergency medical treatment or advice. This means children are not fully protected in the event of an emergency. This is carried forward to this inspection.

## **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 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):

- obtain written parental permission, at the time of the placement, to seek any necessary emergency medical advice or treatment in the future
- develop further the use of 'Birth to three matters' framework to plan and provide activities to help children's development

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)