



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	123368
<b>Inspection date</b>	19 September 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Kim Wailling
<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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1995. She lives with her husband and two children aged 12 and 16 years in St Albans, Hertfordshire. The whole of the ground floor, first floor bathroom and second bedroom of the childminder's house is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of three children at any one time and is currently minding two children under five, whom attend on a part-time basis. The childminder walks to take children to local toddler groups. The family has no pets.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children thrive as the childminder follows satisfactory practices which meet the health and nutritional needs of all children. The childminder closely supervised mealtimes so that children are helped to develop good appetites. She sets out in an attractive way the packed meals provided by the children's parents and encourages children to take drinks throughout the day. Children's individual health needs, including the use of sun cream, are discussed before childminding commences which means that the childminder is fully aware of possible allergies or dietary restrictions. Appropriate documentation is kept to record the administration of medicines and accidents. It is clearly written and shared with parents. In addition, the childminder has a well-stocked first aid kit. However, children's health, if they have an accident, is compromised as the childminder does not hold a current first aid qualification, which includes training in first aid for children and infants.

Children are offered many opportunities to exercise, including visits to the local park. Children can freely access the childminder's garden and make good use of the range of toys, such as 'the bubble car' which fosters their coordination. Children can rest or sleep according to their needs as the day is well-organised to fit in with individual requirements. When caring for infants the childminder works very closely with parents to ensure that their individual routines are accommodated. Consequently, children's health needs on an every day level are satisfactorily met.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are cared for in a very clean bright environment. They use well-maintained equipment, such as a travel cot and high chair, which is age-appropriate and of suitable design. Children can move around freely indoors as the childminder has arranged furniture and the storage of toys to create uncluttered spaces. She is aware of the need to be vigilant and makes adaptations where necessary taking into account the children's ages. Stair gates, for example, are used effectively to restrict younger children's access to the stairs. The childminder has suitable fire detection and control equipment. She has devised an emergency evacuation plan which is practised with the children. As a result, children are kept safe when in the childminder's home.

Children freely use the garden, when weather permits, as it is well-maintained. Most potential hazards are well-managed. The childminder is aware of safety issues when taking children on outings and when attending local toddler groups. Children are always closely supervised when attending groups or out on walks. The childminder has satisfactory, but not updated, knowledge of what to do if she becomes concerned about a child in her care. This is underpinned by a procedure to monitor any existing injuries to children. Overall, most systems in place to keep children safe, whilst in the childminder's care, are adequate.

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

The provision is good.

The children show eager interest in the very wide range of toys and activities on offer. They can freely access toys and initiate their own play. This includes creating their own games, such as playing with duplo, which are satisfying and rewarding to them. Toys are rotated on a regular basis to provide challenge and to stimulate interest. Children are eager to take part in planned activities, for example, visiting a children's farm. Children's achievements and events of the day are shared with their parents and carers.

Children begin to distinguish right from wrong and form positive relationships. The childminder sets consistent boundaries and supports children appropriately to develop these skills. She is calm and patient with the children. Children's learning is effectively promoted. The childminder has a good understanding of how to stimulate children's interests and keep them busily involved. She sits and plays with the children, engaging them in games and conversation to extend their language. Independence skills, such as making choices, are encouraged. The structure of daily routine helps children to feel settled and secure. Younger children visit four local parent and toddler groups which are well-resourced and offer children the opportunity to take part in music session, art and craft activities. The childminder is familiar with the 'Birth to three matters' framework and is incorporating many of its aspects, such as encouraging infants to master coordination and walking skills, into her practice. Subsequently, all children are offered a good range of age-appropriate activities and experiences to promote their learning and enjoyment.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happily settled and make positive relationships. The childminder's home is comfortable and well-organised. This means that children access toys easily and play happily together. Children are given support to help them manage their own behaviour, develop independence and social skills. Children enjoy the childminder's sense of fun and respond to her polite requests to use please and thank you when appropriate. Children are helped to gain an understanding of the wider community as the childminder is aware of the importance of doing this. There are many toys and resources, such as duplo 'play people' with differing skin tones and books for children to use, which promotes an understanding of cultural diversity. As a result, children are developing social skills and awareness so that they are able to form good relationships with adults and other children.

The childminder knows the children and their families well. Arrangements to settle children into the childminder's care are negotiated taking into account the needs of the children and the requirements of parents for flexible childcare. Information about the setting is verbally shared with parents. The childminder knows of the requirement to record the outcome of any complaints made in writing by parents, although currently no procedure is in place to do this. Consequently, partnership with parents is underdeveloped to enable all to work together to support the children's well-being.

## Organisation

The organisation is inadequate.

Children are looked after by an experienced parent and long-term childminder. Children's enjoyment is successfully promoted as the childminder has organised her daily routine very well. This means that children are given time for unhurried play, rest, relaxed meals and snacks. Children feel comfortable and at ease in the childminder's home. As a result, children become confident to form friendships, initiate their own play as well as enjoying being involved in planned activities and outings.

Most documentation which is required for the efficient management of the provision is in place. However, overall, children's needs are not met. The childminder is breaching a condition of registration. She has failed to implement appropriate procedures to ensure that a household members over the age of 16 is suitably vetted. In addition, the childminder has not updated her first aid qualification. These oversights have significant impact on children's well-being.

## Improvements since the last inspection

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to keep a record of any medication administered to children. This has been fully addressed. Children's good health, when in the childminder's care, is positively supported as all relevant documentation is in place.

## Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there has been no complaints made to Ofsted that require 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 inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet 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, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that all conditions of registration are complied with, including any person living in the household over 16 submitting to a vetting procedure whereby the information supplied is verified with the relevant sources

- complete an appropriate first aid course that includes training in first aid for infants and young children.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

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)