



## Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	504070
<b>Inspection date</b>	23 August 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Donna Suzanne Lancaster

<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 has been registered since 2001. She lives with her husband and their three children aged six, nine and 10 years. They live in a house in Hutton Rugby, which has shops, schools and parks within walking distance. The whole of the house, except the main bedroom, is used for childminding. There is a fully enclosed garden available for outside play.

The family have two rabbits and tropical fish.

The childminder is registered to care for five children aged under eight years at any one time. She is currently caring for 11 children, of whom, nine are under eight years. All children attend on a part time basis. The childminder takes children to and collects them from the local school. She is a member of National Childminding Association.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children's individual dietary needs are met by the childminder, who works closely with the parents to ensure their needs are met and children remain healthy. All parents provide children's meals, whilst the childminder provides fresh fruit at snack time and a choice of drinks, which are freely available to them.

The childminder understands the importance of good hygiene routines to protect children's health and the children are developing independence in their personal care with encouragement and support from her. For instance, they wash their hands after toileting and before meals. The childminder follows the children's daily routines for eating and sleeping, which ensures that they are content and able to enjoy their play. Arrangements for first aid and administering medication meet requirements and protect children effectively.

Children enjoy a varied range of physical activities and outings in the fresh air, which contribute to keeping them fit and well. The childminder ensures that children have daily activities and opportunities to be outdoors, for example, in the garden, visits to the park and walking to and from school. A sufficient range of resources are available to support children's physical development.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder's home is warm and welcoming where space is organised to allow children to move around safely. Risks have been identified and minimised, for example, hazardous substances are out of the reach of children and a safety gate is used to prevent children from accessing the stairs. Children are protected from the risk of fire through the childminder having put in place a fire safety plan which is displayed at the entrance of the premises. The plan clearly indicates a safe evacuation route and a premises layout. Suitable fire safety equipment is available, including smoke detectors and a fire blanket. The childminder further promotes children's safety on outings through close supervision, the use of a buggy for very young children and by teaching children how to cross the road safely.

Children choose from a selection of toys and equipment which are varied and broad-ranging. Equipment is stored in boxes in the bedrooms. The childminder brings a selection of boxes downstairs daily, depending on which children are being cared for. They are positioned appropriately at children's level. This allows all children easy access to them and to make choices for themselves and direct their own play. The childminder monitors and supervises children's choice of toys to ensure they are safe and appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The childminder has all the required procedures and documentation in place to safeguard and promote children's welfare. For example, she holds a current first aid certificate, and has a sound knowledge and understanding of her responsibilities with regard to child protection procedures, in line with the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

Children are happy and settled. Caring relationships are evident between the childminder and the children, contributing to the children's sense of belonging. Children's self-esteem is developing as a result of the childminder encouraging and praising them and valuing what they have to offer. Younger children's communication skills are developing well as they talk about the animals in the farm and the noises they make; they also copy words and repeat sounds as they look at books. Younger children enjoy plenty of cuddles and physical closeness, enabling them to feel secure and play contentedly. Children are beginning to learn to share, play harmoniously together and take turns, for example, when playing with the farm and animals and sitting reading books together. Children's individual needs are well met through the childminder's sound knowledge of their home routines and their capabilities.

Children can choose to take part in relaxing or busy activities depending on their needs and interests. Children spend their time purposefully. They enjoy exploring a range of enjoyable and interesting activities which contribute to developing their learning, such as interactive toys, books, creative, construction and imaginative play. Children have opportunities to socialise with other children in organised group activities, for example, regular visits to the toddler groups.

The childminder has a sufficient awareness of activities which help children to develop fine motor skills, such as mark-making, modelling with art and craft materials and building with construction toys.

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

The provision is satisfactory.

The childminder has a good understanding of meeting children's individual needs, through discussion with parents before placement commences and on a regular daily basis through daily verbal sharing of information. She maintains records and the necessary documentation to support the care and welfare of children, such as written agreements and consents. This enables the childminder to meet each child's individual needs. Children enjoy good relationships with the childminder. They develop self-esteem and confidence as they make choices and decisions. Children are beginning to learn about the wider world, for example, as they go for walks in the local community.

All children are welcomed into the home and participate in all activities because the childminder values and respects their individuality. Their needs are well met as they follow their daily routines as discussed with parents. Children's behaviour is very good, as a result of the childminders consistent and positive behaviour management strategies. Children feel relaxed and secure in the positive atmosphere that the childminder creates.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is satisfactory.

The children feel at home and at ease with the childminder and in the organised environment, which contributes to the children being happy and settled. The required ratios are maintained, resulting in children receiving appropriate support and their needs being met. Space indoors and outdoors is well used to cater for all the children's play needs. They are able to move around safely, confidently and independently.

Most documentation is available. However, not all required parental consents, and the procedure to be followed in the event of a complaint, are in place. Verbal information is shared on a daily basis with parents, keeping them informed about their child's progress, development and achievements. Overall, the provision meets the needs of the range of the children for whom it provides.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

At the last inspection the childminder was asked to ensure that she maintained up-to-date written agreements and children's information sheets, and that she obtain written permission from parents before administering medication to children.

The childminder has made significant progress in improving documentation by completing written agreements with parents; these include permission to administer medication, and she maintains up-to-date information on children's record sheets. This has helped to improve and promote children's welfare and safety.

## **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 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):

- obtain written permission from parents to take children on outings

- ensure the procedure for parents to follow in the event of a complaint includes the correct contact details and is in line with recent changes to regulations.

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)